

**立法會**  
**Legislative Council**

LC Paper No. CB(2)541/14-15  
(These minutes have been seen  
by the Administration)

Ref : CB2/PL/HA

**Panel on Home Affairs**

**Minutes of meeting**  
**held on Monday, 17 November 2014, at 4:30 pm**  
**in Conference Room 2 of the Legislative Council Complex**

- Members present** : Hon Starry LEE Wai-king, JP (Chairman)  
Hon YIU Si-wing (Deputy Chairman)  
Hon Cyd HO Sau-lan, JP  
Dr Hon LAM Tai-fai, SBS, JP  
Hon IP Kwok-him, GBS, JP  
Hon Claudia MO  
Hon NG Leung-sing, SBS, JP  
Hon Steven HO Chun-yin  
Hon Frankie YICK Chi-ming  
Hon WU Chi-wai, MH  
Hon MA Fung-kwok, SBS, JP  
Hon CHAN Chi-chuen  
Dr Hon Kenneth CHAN Ka-lok  
Hon LEUNG Che-cheung, BBS, MH, JP  
Dr Hon Helena WONG Pik-wan  
Hon IP Kin-yuen  
Hon TANG Ka-piu, JP  
Dr Hon CHIANG Lai-wan, JP  
Hon Christopher CHUNG Shu-kun, BBS, MH, JP  
Hon Tony TSE Wai-chuen, BBS
- Members attending** : Hon LEE Cheuk-yan  
Hon James TO Kun-sun  
Hon Frederick FUNG Kin-kee, SBS, JP  
Hon WONG Kwok-hing, BBS, MH  
Hon Alice MAK Mei-kuen, JP  
Hon KWOK Wai-keung

**Member  
absent** : Hon CHEUNG Kwok-che

**Public Officers  
attending** : Item IV

Mr TSANG Tak-sing, GBS, JP  
Secretary for Home Affairs

Mrs Pamela TAN KAM Mi-wah, JP  
Director of Home Affairs

Mr Jack CHAN Jick-chi, JP  
Deputy Director of Home Affairs (2)

Miss Linda LEUNG Ka-ying  
Assistant Director of Home Affairs (5)

Item V

Ms Michelle LI Mei-sheung, JP  
Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Dr Louis NG Chi-wa  
Assistant Director of Leisure and Cultural Services  
(Heritage and Museums)

Miss WONG Yuet-wah  
Principal Assistant Secretary for Home Affairs  
(Culture) 2

**Clerk in  
attendance** : Ms Alice LEUNG  
Chief Council Secretary (2) 2

**Staff in  
attendance** : Ms Vanessa CHENG  
Assistant Legal Adviser 5

Miss Josephine SO  
Senior Council Secretary (2) 6

Miss Emma CHEUNG  
Legislative Assistant (2) 2

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**I. Confirmation of minutes**  
(LC Paper No. CB(2)141/14-15)

The minutes of the meeting held on 9 October 2014 were confirmed.

**II. Information papers issued since the last meeting**  
(LC Paper Nos. CB(2)113/14-15(01) and CB(2)190/14-15(01))

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

- (a) Administration's progress report on the outstanding leisure and cultural services projects of the former Municipal Councils; and
- (b) Referral from Legislative Council ("LegCo") Members' meeting with North District Council members on 22 May 2014 concerning the provision of community facilities in the North District under the existing planning policy.

**III. Date of next meeting and items for discussion**  
(LC Paper Nos. CB(2)238/14-15(01) and (02))

List of outstanding items for discussion

3. The Chairman informed members that she and the Deputy Chairman had met with the Secretary for Home Affairs ("SHA") on 21 October 2014 to discuss the work plan of the Panel for the 2014-2015 legislative session. Based on the discussion, the Secretariat had updated the Panel's list of outstanding items for discussion (LC Paper No. CB(2)238/14-15(01)) to reflect the agreed work plan for the current session.

4. The Chairman added that she had relayed the requests of some members raised at the Panel meeting on 9 October 2014 for early discussion of certain subjects. The tentative timing for discussion of various subjects was set out in the updated list of outstanding items for discussion.

Regular meeting in December 2014

5. Members agreed to discuss the following three items at the next regular meeting scheduled for Friday, 12 December 2014, at 8:30 am -

- (a) Construction of the East Kowloon Cultural Centre in Ngau Tau Kok;

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- (b) Signature Project of Sham Shui Po District Council; and
- (c) Progress report of Pilot Scheme on Enhancement of District Administration Through District Management Committees.

6. In view of the number of items to be discussed, the Chairman suggested and members agreed that the regular meeting in December be extended by 30 minutes to end at 11 am.

#### **IV. Review of the Building Management Ordinance**

(LC Paper Nos. CB(2)238/14-15(03) and (04))

7. At the invitation of the Chairman, SHA briefed Members on the public consultation document on "Review of the Building Management Ordinance (Cap. 344) ("BMO")" that set out proposals which sought to improve the legal and administrative frameworks for building management. The public consultation exercise launched by the Home Affairs Department ("HAD") would last until 2 February 2015.

#### Operation of management committees ("MCs") and owners' corporations ("OCs")

#### *Bid-rigging and disputes relating to large-scale maintenance projects*

8. In response to enquiries raised by Members (including the Deputy Chairman, Ms Cyd HO, Dr Helena WONG, Dr LAM Tai-fai and Mr KWOK Wai-keung) about measures taken by the Administration to enhance the capability of owners/OCs in building management and to assist them in the prevention of bid-rigging in building maintenance, Director of Home Affairs ("DHA") explained that HAD played the role of a facilitator in assisting owners/OCs to carry out their building management responsibilities and had implemented a number of building management initiatives to meet the specific needs of owners in carrying out building maintenance works. The initiatives included -

- (a) having a dedicated Division in HAD Headquarters and establishing the District Building Management Liaison Teams ("DBMLTs") in 18 District Offices to provide dedicated support and outreach services to OCs and property owners, including assisting property owners to incorporate under BMO or to form other types of owners' organizations, attending owners' or OC meetings to give advice and assistance, answering enquiries on building management, organizing various training programmes such as seminars, workshops, talks, etc. to enhance the knowledge and capability of owners in building management

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and providing informal mediation to help resolve disputes among owners and residents;

- (b) introducing the "AP Easy" Building Maintenance Advisory Service Scheme ("AP Easy"), on a pilot basis, to assist OCs in the commissioning of suitable consultants/authorized persons to take forward building maintenance works. Members from three professional institutes, namely the Hong Kong Institute of Surveyors, the Hong Kong Institution of Engineers and the Hong Kong Institute of Architects, would provide free, in-depth, comprehensive and tailor-made professional advisory advice and services to the participating OCs in respect of drafting tender and contract documents and analyzing tenders for building maintenance; and
- (c) providing support to the owners and residents of "three-nil" buildings (i.e. buildings which did not have an OC or any owners'/residents' organizations nor engage any property management companies ("PMCs")), HAD had launched the second phase of the Building Management Professional Advisory Service Scheme under which two PMCs were engaged to provide one-stop professional advisory services to a further 1 200 "three-nil" buildings in preparing management audit reports for the fire services, electrical and other facilities of the buildings and to assist them in forming OCs, applying for various subsidies or loan schemes and following up on the maintenance works.

SHA and DHA added that on the law enforcement front, the Police and the Independent Commission Against Corruption ("ICAC") had been actively following up on all complaints and reported cases involving crime or corruption element. The Police and ICAC would continue with their investigation and enforcement work, as appropriate, to combat illegal activities relating to large-scale maintenance projects.

9. Mr IP Kwok-him, Mr LEUNG Che-cheung and Mr Frederick FUNG expressed a similar view that the crux of the issue lay in OCs' and owners' lack of expertise in planning building maintenance works. Mr IP said that it was his understanding that the Hong Kong Housing Society ("HKHS") and the Urban Renewal Authority ("URA") had put in place safeguard measures for prevention of syndicated bid-rigging in building repair and maintenance works carried out under the Operation Building Bright ("OBB"). Mr IP suggested that in amending BMO, HAD should make reference to the measures adopted by HKHS and URA with a view to preventing bid-rigging activities in the tendering process of large-scale maintenance projects.

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10. In response, SHA advised that BMO provided a legal framework for owners to organize themselves to discharge their building management responsibilities and empowered owners to form OCs which in turn carried out duties through an owners-appointed MC. The Government would continue to adopt a multi-pronged approach, covering legislation, enforcement, support and assistance to property owners to prevent bid-rigging.

11. The Chairman said that the chances of bid-rigging could not be reduced simply by the launch of various schemes outlined in the Administration's paper, such as AP Easy. In her view, those schemes had to be complemented by corresponding amendments to BMO in order to yield results. The Chairman further said that according to her understanding, HKHS and URA had reviewed the operation of OBB. To further prevent malpractice including bid-rigging in the selection of works contractors, they had introduced recently the "New Tendering Arrangement" ("NTA") for appointment of works contractors under OBB projects. Under NTA, some procedures originally handled by authorized persons, consultancy firms, PMCs or members of OCs, etc. during the tendering process, including the collection of expression of interest, distribution of tender documents to prospective tenderers and the collection and opening of tender documents, would be undertaken by the independent accounting firm appointed by HKHS and URA. NTA aimed to provide an open and fair tendering platform by keeping the identity of the prospective tenderers confidential such that they would be free from any possible undue interference from the stakeholders, including OCs, consultant firms or other prospective tenderers. The Chairman considered that HAD should consolidate its experience and identify room for improvement in addressing the problem of bid-rigging and where appropriate, draw reference from HKHS' and URA's operation of OBB.

12. Referring to the Administration's paper, Mr WONG Kwok-hing said that the Administration had put forward two proposals to ensure that there had been thorough discussion and wide participation by owners before a decision on large-scale maintenance projects were made. These proposals were (a) to raise the quorum of the OC meeting at which the voting of the resolution took place; or (b) to raise the percentage of shares of votes required for the passage of the resolution. While he saw the merit of enhancing owners' participation before a decision on such projects was made, he strongly objected to the proposal to raise the threshold for passing the resolution for such projects. Mr WONG pointed out that based on his past experience in assisting OCs, it would be extremely difficult for OCs to commence building maintenance works if the required percentage of shares of votes for the passage of the resolution was raised from 50% to 75% of the shares of votes at the meeting, particularly when the developers had control of a large percentage of the shares due to their ownership of the common parts and facilities of the building developments. He was strongly of the

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view that the proposal of requiring a higher threshold for passing resolution was considered not desirable and warranted careful consideration.

13. While Mr IP Kwok-him, Mr Christopher CHUNG and Mr Frederick FUNG shared the concern of Mr WONG Kwok-hing, Mr James TO held an opposite view. Pointing out the merit of forging consensus on the initiative to carry out building maintenance work, Mr TO considered both options as proposed in the consultation document conducive to encouraging more thorough discussion and wider participation by the owners in the making of such an important decision.

14. In response, SHA advised that the two proposals were considered feasible options which might help address the main building management concerns raised by the public in recent years, i.e. disputes arising from large-scale maintenance projects. The two proposals were options for consideration by the public and the decision on the proposal to be adopted would be made in light of the views collected during the consultation period.

15. Mr Tony TSE and Dr LAM Tai-fai enquired about the justifications for putting forward different rates of increase in the percentage thresholds concerning the quorum of OC meetings at which voting of resolutions on large-scale maintenance projects took place and the percentage of shares of votes required for the passage of such resolutions. Dr LAM also enquired whether the Administration had taken any initiative to encourage owners to participate in the building management matters.

16. DHA responded that the proposed increases in quorum and percentage of votes for large-scale maintenance projects, as set out in the consultation document, were put forth for consideration by members of the public. The proposed rates of increase were set after detailed deliberations and were believed to be realistic and achievable. DHA further advised that HAD organized various training courses, seminars, talks and workshops on building management for members of MCs, with a view to enhancing the capability of owners and encouraging their participation in building management.

17. Mr Christopher CHUNG and Mr LEUNG Che-cheung pointed out that building maintenance works involved professional knowledge and substantial costs. In order to help owners or OCs to assess the cost of the maintenance works, the Administration should consider establishing a "central database" that captured information on market prices for various maintenance items and past performance of consultants/contractors in the market for reference of owners or OCs in planning building maintenance works. SHA responded that the Administration would consider this suggestion.

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18. Dr Kenneth CHAN and Mr KWOK Wai-keung both considered that in the light of the read-across implications involved, careful consideration should be given as to how "large-scale maintenance projects" should be defined in BMO. In Dr CHAN's view, due to the complexity of the maintenance works involved and the abstract meaning of "important maintenance works", it might not be practical or realistic to define "large-scale maintenance projects" in terms of the types of maintenance works to be carried out. It was essential to set out the monetary value considered as "large-scale maintenance projects".

19. Ms Cyd HO and Mr LEE Cheuk-yan both considered that the mere provision of advisory services under various schemes launched by HAD could hardly address the problems faced by property owners in the event that MC failed substantially to perform the duties under BMO or its members acted with wilful negligence/made unreasonable decisions, causing loss to individual owners. In their views, criminal sanctions should be provided in BMO to deter people, including MC members, from breaching the requirements of BMO. Dr Helena WONG echoed their views and considered the suggested inclusion of penalty provisions could help curb syndicated bid-rigging in large-scale building maintenance projects.

20. DHA responded with the following points -

- (a) BMO sought to provide a legal framework for owners to organize themselves to discharge their building management responsibilities. The Government's role was to facilitate, encourage and assist owners to form residents' organizations such as OCs through multi-pronged measures and to provide capacity building support to enhance the capability of owners/OCs in building management;
- (b) under BMO, the Lands Tribunal had the jurisdiction to hear and determine any proceedings relating to the interpretation and enforcement of the provisions of BMO and deed of mutual covenant ("DMC"), powers and duties of OC, etc.;
- (c) at present, there were around 10 000 OCs in Hong Kong. The number of reported cases involving a breach of provisions in BMO was small; and
- (d) as owners served as MC members on a voluntary basis, many of them considered it unfair to subject them to criminal liability.



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*Convening OC general meeting at the request of owners*

21. Mr WU Chi-wai anticipated that as the review on BMO involved complicated issues, it would take some time to complete the legislative amendment process. He suggested that the Administration should consider issuing building management guidelines to bring into effect in the interim those proposals intended to safeguard owners' right to convene OC general meeting when the office of the MC Chairman was vacant before the relevant legislative proposals came into force.

*Transfer of documents or records from the Old MC to the New MC*

22. Responding to Ms Cyd HO's concern over the transfer of assets and/or records from the old MC to the new MC, DHA advised that to ensure proper handover of records between the old MC and the new MC, the Administration proposed to consider, as a best practice and an administrative measure, that the old MC should be advised to pass the documents direct to the new MC and ask the recipient(s) to sign an acknowledgement of receipt. Where a duplicate copy of the documents had been kept by the old MC, it should inform the new MC of the type of such documents and where duplicate copy had been placed.

Formation of OCs

23. Miss Alice MAK and Mr WONG Kwok-hing were supportive of the suggestion that the threshold for the formation of OCs under section 3 of BMO be lowered from 30% to 20% of shares in aggregate as it would ameliorate the difficulty in gathering sufficient percentage of shares in aggregate to form an OC.

24. Mr IP Kwok-him and Mr Christopher CHUNG held the view that OC formation should not be a mandatory requirement, given the difference in the size, the number of property units involved and the needs of property owners in different buildings/estates.

25. In response, DHA stressed that formation of OCs was one of the tools for effective building management. Owners might also opt to form other types of owners' organizations including owners' committees, mutual aid committees or other residents' associations, having regard to their specific needs and preferences and the actual circumstances of the buildings.

## Appointment and remuneration of DMC managers

### *Termination of the appointment of DMC Managers*

26. Mr IP Kwok-him, Mr WONG Kwok-hing, Mr KWOK Wai-keung all welcomed the proposal of lowering the threshold for terminating the appointment of DMC managers from 50% to 30% of shares in aggregate. Mr KWOK and Mr Christopher CHUNG also supported limiting the term of appointment of DMC managers to five years.

27. Mr Frederick FUNG, however, had reservations about the proposal to lower the threshold for terminating the appointment of DMC managers to 30% of shares in aggregate, worrying that it might result in the minority owners' domination over the termination of the DMC manager's appointment. It would create a paradox in that the decision of appointing the DMC manager previously supported by owners of not less than 50% of the shares in aggregate was overruled by a resolution with 30% of shares in aggregate.

28. In reply to the Deputy Chairman's enquiry on whether consideration would be given to stipulate in BMO the building management responsibilities of PMCs so as to enhance the protection accorded to property owners, SHA advised that while BMO provided for the incorporation of owners and stipulated the respective powers and functions of OCs, DMC managers and individual owners in the management of their buildings, the Property Management Services Bill currently under scrutiny by LegCo aimed at, inter alia, introducing a licensing regime for PMCs. With the passage of the Bill, all PMCs would be required to obtain licences and comply with the licensing requirements stipulated in the legislation.

### Other issues

#### *Allocation of undivided and management shares and separating the accounts and budgets of the residential and commercial parts of a composite development*

29. Mr WU Chi-wai expressed concern that some old DMCs contained terms which were unfair to the minority owners. An example of such problem was the unfair allocation of undivided shares and management shares between owners and developers, where the developers might have a large number of undivided shares but only needed to pay a small amount of management expenses. He suggested that the Administration should consider introducing the concept of "user-pays" principle to BMO to resolve the problem of unfair allocation of undivided shares and management shares. As building management disputes often arose in the cases of composite developments where DMCs of which did not provide for the separation of

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budgets and accounts for the residential part and the commercial part, Mr WU further suggested that separating the accounts and budgets of the residential and commercial parts should become mandatory for all composite developments including the old ones.

30. DHA responded that there might be practical difficulties in implementing the above suggestions of Mr WU Chi-wai under certain circumstances. For instance, it was not uncommon that the first few floors of a building were restaurants or shops with the residential units located on the upper floors. In such cases, the commercial part and the residential part shared common and inseparable facilities such as water tanks, sewers and drains. Owners should have joint responsibility to manage and maintain the common parts.

31. Mr Tony TSE remarked that as building management disputes often arose from differences in the interpretation of DMC, the Administration should consider providing standard provisions of DMC for estate developers to follow and for reference of property buyers/owners to help avoid disputes. DHA responded that DMCs had to be approved by the Lands Department ("LandsD") and drawn up in line with its "Guidelines for Deeds of Mutual Covenant" which regulated the remit of developers, owners and managers. The suggestion of standardizing the DMC provisions would be referred to LandsD for consideration.

*Manpower situation of Liaison Officers engaged in building management duties*

32. Mr WU Chi-wai and Miss Alice MAK noted that there were currently around 120 Liaison Officers engaged in building management duties in HAD Headquarters and DBMLTs in 18 District Offices. They hoped that the Administration would strengthen the role of and allocate more resources to increase the manpower of Liaison Officers, with a view to providing more dedicated and focused support to owners in discharging their building management responsibilities.

*Management of house developments*

33. Noting the constraints against forming OCs in house developments, such as Fairview Park in Yuen Long, Mr LEUNG Che-cheung doubted whether amendments to BMO could be made to enable owners of house developments to form owners' committees so that they could have a greater say in the management of the common parts and facilities of the house developments.

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### Scheduling of special meeting

Clerk

Admin

34. Members agreed to hold a special meeting to receive views from deputations on the public consultation document issued by HAD. The Chairman asked the Clerk to liaise with members and the Administration after the meeting to fix the date of the special meeting. The Chairman also requested the Administration to make available for the said special meeting detailed information about safeguard measures adopted by the Administration for prevention of corruption and malpractices, in particular bid-rigging, in building repair and maintenance works for Members' reference. The information should include HKHS' and URA's operation of OBB and improvement measures identified after the recent review on OBB.

*(Post-meeting note: The special meeting for receiving views from deputations on the public consultation document was scheduled for Saturday, 24 January 2015, at 9:00 am. The notice of the special meeting was issued to members vide LC Paper No. CB(2)498/14-15 on 18 December 2014.)*

### **V. Enhancement of programming, audience building, and renewal of permanent exhibitions of public museums** (LC Paper Nos. CB(2)238/14-15(05) and (06))

35. At the invitation of the Chairman, Director of Leisure and Cultural Services ("DLCS") briefed Members on the efforts made by the Administration in the past two years and its future plan to enhance the programming, audience building, and renewal of permanent exhibitions of public museums managed by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department ("LCSD") as detailed in the Administration's paper.

### Renewal of permanent exhibitions

36. The Chairman, the Deputy Chairman, Mr MA Fung-kwok and Dr Helena WONG expressed support for the Administration's proposal to renew the permanent exhibitions in the Hong Kong Science Museum ("HKScM"), the Hong Kong Heritage Museum ("HKHM"), the Hong Kong Museum of History ("HKMH") and the Hong Kong Museum of Coastal Defence ("HKMCD"). Noting that LCSD planned to revamp and convert HKHM's *New Territories Heritage Hall* into *Hong Kong Culture Gallery*, the Deputy Chairman hoped that exhibitions on the four local intangible cultural heritage ("ICH") items which had been inscribed onto the national list of ICH items could be arranged in the revamped gallery, so as to enhance public awareness of and interest in local ICH. The Chairman was of the view that the Administration should press ahead with the renewal of the permanent

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exhibitions of HKScM and HKMCD. She said that owing to the fast pace of advancement of science and technology in the past two decades, the information on display for many exhibits as well as the presentation technology employed in the above two museums were not in pace with the modern times. Mr MA also enquired whether LCSD had any specific plans and timeline for renewing the permanent exhibitions and curating thematic exhibitions in public museums.

37. In response, DLCS advised that -

- (a) taking into account the public's growing concern on and interest in Hong Kong's own culture and heritage and in order to revitalize and sharpen the positioning of HKHM as a museum on this area, the Administration planned to revamp HKHM's *New Territories Heritage Hall* and *Orientation Theatre* respectively into *Hong Kong Culture Gallery* and *Jin Yong (Louis Cha) Gallery*. While the latter gallery would be dedicated to one of the most influential modern Chinese language novelists of Hong Kong, Dr CHA Leung-yung, pen name JIN Yong, whose works and achievements had enormous impact on Hong Kong's popular culture, the former would portray in a broader scene the unique features of Hong Kong culture, to be manifested by popular local art forms such as movies, pop music and costumes that flourished during the 1970's/80's. In addition, LCSD would continue to promote local ICH items through activities of HKHM and other LCSD museums or venues such as the Hong Kong Central Library;
- (b) apart from renewing its permanent exhibitions, thematic exhibitions (which normally lasted for only a few months and provided varied programmes of diverse topics of interest with the aim to encourage repeat visits and widen the range of museum's audience) would continue to be held in HKHM like those organized in recent years, e.g. "他*Fashion*傳奇Eddie Lau · 她*Image*百變劉培基", "*Bruce Lee: Kung Fu · Art · Life*" and "*Studio Ghibli Layout Designs: Understanding the Secrets of Takahata and Miyazaki Animation*";
- (c) to sustain the appeal to the public, cultivate a wider audience base as well as enhance the educational elements in their services, LCSD would renew the permanent exhibitions of its museums at suitable intervals (say within 15 to 20 years) which was in line with professional practice of museums worldwide. The renewal would include replacing outdated exhibits, updating and enhancing the contents in the light of new information or

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archival information surfaced through new researches, extending the scope of exhibitions and deploying latest technologies to enhance the visitors' experience; and

- (d) to keep members of the public abreast of the latest developments in science and technology whilst sharpening its focus on popular science topics, HKScM planned to convert part of the existing *Life Sciences Hall* and *Occupational Safety and Health Gallery* to a *Palaeontology Gallery* and *Earth Science Gallery* respectively in order to showcase the abundant biodiversity of the ancient world and to depict the underlying mechanism that drove the dynamic Earth. It would be followed by the renewal of the existing *Transportation Hall*, *Home Technology Hall* and *Food Science Hall* to introduce the latest development in the respective fields. Preparatory work of the renewal would be launched in 2015 and was expected to complete by mid-2020.

38. In response to Mr MA Fung-kwok's further enquiry, Assistant Director of Leisure and Cultural Services (Heritage and Museums) ("AD(HM)") said that the proposed renewal of permanent exhibitions of HKMH would draw reference to the revamping exercise carried out recently in the Imperial War Museum in London concerning the permanent exhibition on the First World War with a cost of £40 million. While the two projects were similar in scale, it was the Government's plan to adopt likewise advanced multimedia technology to bring fun and exciting experience to visitors to the exhibitions. Interactive exhibits and multimedia programmes would be developed for this purpose.

39. Mr WU Chi-wai said that to gain success in the delivery of museum services, LCSD should ensure that its museums were providing inspiring, experimental and educational exhibitions through the development of interactive exhibits and multimedia programmes that could help nurture creativity amongst youngsters and foster their interest in science, history and heritage. AD(HM) responded that the Administration appreciated the views of Mr WU and would work towards this end.

Audience building

40. The Deputy Chairman opined that the Administration should explore initiatives/measures to attract more visitors to LCSD's museums, in particular, HKMH and HKMCD, given the low attendance rates and the large sums of money to be spent on renewing the permanent exhibitions of these two museums. He suggested that collaboration with the education and commercial sectors should be pursued for the purpose of building up/enlarging the audience base. Echoing the view of the Deputy Chairman,

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Dr Helena WONG suggested that the Administration should, apart from presenting exhibitions in various museums of LCSD, brings art exhibitions to the diverse audience outside the museums by organizing outreach programmes/exhibitions.

41. DLCS and AD(HM) responded with the following points -

- (a) the total attendance of the public museums had been on the rise in the past two years, from 5.18 million in 2011 to 6.13 million in 2013, representing an increase of 18%;
- (b) since its opening in 1998, the exhibitions of HKMH, which were both entertaining and educational, had attracted more than seven million visitors and been acclaimed as one of the must-see attractions in Hong Kong by many travel agents over the years. In 2013 alone, the total number of visitors to HKMH was about 0.86 million;
- (c) given the scale and complexity of the works involved, the estimated project cost for the renewal of HKMH was about \$466 million. The renewal works would include commissioning academic research, revamping the design and layout of the exhibition, fabrication of exhibits, development of interactive exhibits and multimedia programmes, removal, fabrication and installation works, etc.; and
- (d) it was the Government's future direction to utilize advanced technology to bring fun and exciting experience to visitors to public museums, where possible.

42. Responding to the Chairman's enquiry about efforts made on gauging visitors' views on the provision of museum services, DLCS and AD(HM) advised that in addition to the liaison meetings with customers which were conducted regularly, LCSD conducted biennial opinion survey by interviewing museum goers to collect their views and suggestions on museum services and facilities. According to a survey conducted with 5 118 visitors in 2013, more than 90% of the visitors were satisfied with the programmes and services offered by the public museums. Through monitoring the results of subsequent surveys, LCSD could keep track of the demographics of visitors and museum service satisfaction level so as to establish exhibition-specific visitors' profile, which would help the museums to identify their target audience for coming years, curate thematic exhibitions and design the promotion strategy accordingly.

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43. The Deputy Chairman asked whether the Administration had set any target for the number of visitors to public museums under LCSD's management. AD(HM) replied that the Administration's objective was to attract as many visitors as possible such that the facilities and resources of the museums could be fully utilized by the general public.

Other issues

44. Dr Kenneth CHAN said that a number of art creations and art projects exhibited or showcased in various occupied areas including Admiralty, Mongkok and Causeway Bay had received high appreciation. As there were calls among members of the public for systematic preservation of the art works, he enquired whether the Administration would take heed to such a request from the public.

45. Sharing a similar concern, Dr Helena WONG stressed the need to preserve and promote local art and culture, in particular those of high value. She expressed a wish that the Administration should collate and organize exhibitions on social movements with profound impact on Hong Kong's history and development, such as the anti-corruption movement and the official Chinese language movement during the 1960's/70's, the annual public procession on 1 July as well as the "Occupy Central" movement underway.

46. In response, DLCS and AD(HM) advised that with the expert advice given by Museum Expert Advisers and the three Museum Advisory Panels, LCSD's museums had all along been maintaining curatorial independence in their operation. Decisions on programming and collections were purely based on objective researches and reviews of historic or artistic value of the exhibits as well as the actual situation, and there was absolutely no political consideration in the process.

47. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 6:29 pm.