

立法會
Legislative Council

LC Paper No. CB(2)1977/14-15

(These minutes have been seen
by the Administration)

Ref : CB2/PL/HA

Panel on Home Affairs

Minutes of meeting
held on Monday, 11 May 2015, at 2:00 pm
in Conference Room 1 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 CHEUNG Kwok-che
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
Dr Hon CHIANG Lai-wan, JP
Hon Christopher CHUNG Shu-kun, BBS, MH, JP
Hon Tony TSE Wai-chuen, BBS
- Member attending** : Dr Hon Priscilla LEUNG Mei-fun, SBS, JP
- Member absent** : Hon TANG Ka-piu, JP

**Public Officers : Item IV
attending**

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

Ms Linda LAW Lai-tan
Principal Assistant Secretary for Home Affairs
(Recreation and Sport) 2

Miss Margrit LI Lai-fan
Assistant Director (Leisure Services) 1
Leisure and Cultural Services Department

Mr Harry TSANG Chin-kwong
Chief Executive Officer (Planning) 1
Leisure and Cultural Services Department

Mrs Alice YU NG Ka-chun
Project Director 3
Architectural Services Department

Mr Allen LEUNG Kin-tak
Chief Project Manager 302
Architectural Services Department

Item V

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

Mr Patrick LI Pak-chuen, JP
Deputy Director of Home Affairs (1)

Mr Gilford LAW Sun-on, JP
District Officer (Kwun Tong)
Home Affairs Department

Mrs Alice YU NG Ka-chun
Project Director 3
Architectural Services Department

Mr LI Ho-kin
Senior Project Co-ordination Manager 1
Architectural Services Department

Mr KWOK Kam-chiu
District Leisure Manager (Kwun Tong)
Leisure and Cultural Services Department

Mr Bunny CHAN Chung-bun, GBS, JP
Chairman of Kwun Tong District Council

Mrs ARON Laura Liang, JP
District Officer (Yau Tsim Mong)
Home Affairs Department

Mr CHAN Siu-tong, MH
Chairman of District Facilities Management Committee
of the Yau Tsim Mong District Council

Mr David LAU Kam-kuen, JP
District Officer (Tuen Mun)
Home Affairs Department

Mr LEUNG Kin-man, BBS, MH
Vice Chairman of Tuen Mun District Council

Mr Cliff AU Wai-cheung
Controller (Social Services)
Yan Oi Tong

Mr Edward MAK Chun-yu, JP
District Officer (Yuen Long)
Home Affairs Department

Hon LEUNG Che-cheung, BBS, MH, JP
Chairman of Yuen Long District Council

Item VI

Ms Florence HUI Hiu-fai, SBS, JP
Under Secretary for Home Affairs

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

Dr Louis NG Chi-wa
Deputy Director (Culture)
Leisure and Cultural Services Department

Ms Fione LO Sau-lai
Museum Director (Heritage Museum)
Leisure and Cultural Services Department

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

Staff in attendance : 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)1379/14-15)

The minutes of the meeting held on 6 February 2015 were confirmed.

II. Information paper issued since the last meeting
(LC Paper No. CB(2)1305/14-15(01))

2. Members noted that a referral from Legislative Council Members' meeting with Sai Kung District Council ("DC") members on 26 March 2015 on issues relating to the development of villages in Sai Kung rural areas and the management of the Tseung Kwan O Waterfront Promenade had been issued since the last meeting.

III. Date of next meeting and items for discussion
(LC Paper Nos. CB(2)1381/14-15(01) and (02))

3. The Chairman reminded members that the next regular meeting of the Panel was originally scheduled for Friday, 12 June 2015, at 8:30 am. As there was a possibility that the Council meeting of 10 June 2015 might last for a few days, to avoid clashing with the anticipated continuation of the Council meeting, the Chairman suggested that the Panel meeting in June be re-scheduled to be held on Monday, 15 June 2015, at 8:30 am. Members agreed.

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4. Members agreed to discuss the following two items proposed by the Administration at the next Panel meeting -

(a) Art Development Matching Grants Pilot Scheme; and

(b) An update on Sports Policy.

Regarding item (b) above, the Chairman proposed that the forthcoming discussion should also cover issues under items 3 and 4 of the Panel's list of outstanding items for discussion (LC Paper No. CB(2)1381/14-15(01)) in view of their relevance to the item proposed by the Administration. Taking into account that members had raised concerns about the Government's support for the promotion of sports in schools when the Panel discussed the subject of educational and career development support for elite athletes at the meeting on 10 April 2015, the Chairman further proposed that members of the Panel on Education and representatives of the Education Bureau be invited to attend the discussion of this item. Members agreed to the proposed arrangements.

(Post-meeting note: Having further consulted the Panel Chairman and checked with individual members on their availability, the next Panel meeting would be held on Friday, 12 June 2015, at 8:30 am as originally scheduled. The notice of meeting, confirming the meeting schedule, was issued on 18 May 2015 vide LC Paper No. CB(2)1515/14-15.)

IV. Proposed open space project at Hing Wah Street West, Sham Shui Po

(LC Paper No. CB(2)1202/14-15(01))

5. As the item involved a funding proposal, the Chairman reminded Members that in accordance with Rule 83A of the Rules of Procedure ("RoP"), they should disclose the nature of any direct or indirect pecuniary interests before they spoke.

6. At the invitation of the Chairman, Secretary for Home Affairs ("SHA") briefed Members on the proposed open space project at the junction of Hing Wah Street West and Tung Chau Street, Sham Shui Po ("SSP") as outlined in the Administration's paper.

Project scope

7. Dr Helena WONG said that Members belonging to the Democratic

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Party supported the provision of an open space at Hing Wah Street West as the proposed project would provide a recreational and leisure venue with specific facilities that benefited a wide cross-section of the community, including residents of nearby estates. She enquired whether consideration could be given to providing in the open space additional facilities, e.g. space for the parking of bicycles/tricycles and sitting-out area with rain shelters. She also requested that additional crossings across Hing Wah Street West or Lai Hong Street be provided to facilitate pedestrians commuting from Hoi Lai Estate, AquaMarine as well as the schools opposite to the proposed open space.

8. In response, Assistant Director (Leisure Services) 1/Leisure and Cultural Services Department ("AD(LS)1/LCSD") advised that the project site under discussion occupied only a small area of about 0.8 hectare. When considering the facilities to be provided in the proposed open space, efforts had been made to optimize the use of the site to address local needs. In addition to providing a garden with seating areas and a children's play area with a designated area for tri-cycling for public relaxation, the project would also provide fitness stations for the elderly to facilitate older people in maintaining an active lifestyle. The provision of a 7-a-side artificial turf football pitch would appeal to younger members of the community while concurrently supporting the development of district-level football training and competitions. The proposed inclusion of a pet garden in the project was a response to requests from members of Sham Shui Po DC ("SSPDC") for additional pet gardens in the district. AD(LS)1/LCSD further said that based on LCSD's experience in managing leisure and recreational venues that had designated areas for tri-cycling, the need for provision of space for the parking of bicycles/tricycles was not strong.

9. Regarding Dr Helena WONG's concern about the provision of road crossing facilities, Project Director 3/Architectural Services Department ("PD3/ASD") advised that along the road section between Tung Chau Street and Sham Mong Road, there were already three road crossings or zebra crossings. The feasibility of more road crossings needed to be considered in relation to its impact on vehicular circulation of the surrounding area.

10. Citing other recreational and leisure venues under LCSD's management, such as the Quarry Bay Promenade which was provided with a pet garden, as examples, Dr Kenneth CHAN held the view that the accessibility of the proposed open space and the provision of ancillary facilities for use by disabled persons were important in the design and planning of facilities to be provided for the project at Hing Wah Street West. Responding to his enquiries, PD3/ASD said that under the current design, some 15 sets of sheltered seating would be provided in the open space,

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scattering over the pet garden, the 7-a-side football pitch and the children's play area. The proposed open space would provide adequate rain shelters with seats to cater for the needs of elderly people and persons with disabilities.

11. The Deputy Chairman said that SSP was a district with a large population of elderly people. While expressing support for the proposed open space project, he was concerned whether the facilities to be provided in the fitness corner for the elderly would soon reach their capacity limits. He asked whether the Administration had estimated the usage rate of the open space and when the facilities therein provided were expected to reach their capacity and, in such circumstances, the measures to be taken by the Administration. The Chairman, Ms Cyd HO and Dr Helena WONG requested that the Administration should consider providing more fitness stations in the proposed open space for use by the elderly.

12. AD(LS)1/LCSD and PD3/ASD responded with the following points -

- (a) the Community Affairs Committee ("CAC") of SSPDC had been consulted on the proposed project scope and the conceptual layout between 2009 and March 2011, following which the Administration had kept the District Facilities Committee ("DFC") of SSPDC updated of the project progress. Both CAC and DFC were supportive of the project;
- (b) as a preliminary idea, three sets of fitness stations would be installed in the fitness corner for the elderly. It was expected that the proposed open space, including the fitness corner with elderly fitness stations, would be a popular leisure spot for residents living in the vicinity; and
- (c) the Administration would monitor and review the usage of fitness stations for the elderly and introduce improvement measures, as and when necessary.

13. In response to the suggestions of Dr CHIANG Lai-wan, PD3/ASD said that the Administration would examine various types of paving materials and their application in the trail zone of the pet garden. Regarding the service block, PD3/ASD advised that it would be a one-storey building to house ancillary facilities including toilets, changing rooms, a baby-care room, a management office and a store room.

14. Mr LEUNG Che-cheung queried the propriety of providing in the open space a 7-a-side artificial turf football pitch the use of which would be subject

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to a charge. Noting that there were a number of primary/secondary schools in the vicinity, he and Mr MA Fung-kwok considered that LCSD should accord priority and offer concessionary rate to the schools for use of the proposed 7-a-side football pitch during non-peak hours. Sharing a similar concern, the Chairman sought information on the number of existing football facilities in SSP District and their usage rates.

15. AD(LS)1/LCSD responded that at present, there were 17 hard surfaced pitches, four natural turf pitches and one artificial turf pitch in SSP District. The average usage rates of the artificial and natural turf pitches were 80% and 100% respectively, which were relatively high. In view of the high demand for artificial and natural turf football pitches, the Administration proposed to include in the open space project at Hing Wah Street West a 7-a-side artificial turf pitch to support the development of district-level football training and competitions. The project proposal had obtained the support of SSPDC. AD(LS)1/LCSD supplemented that the Administration was willing to consider the suggestion of opening up the proposed 7-a-side football pitch for use by schools at concessionary rates during certain time slots.

16. While expressing support for the proposed project, Mr Tony TSE considered that the project scope and design could be further enhanced by increasing the type and number of facilities therein provided. He suggested that consideration be given to providing a jogging track around the proposed open space.

17. In response, AD(LS)1/LCSD said that LCSD had explored the feasibility of providing a jogging track along the site boundary but the idea was dropped after consultation with SSPDC since it would reduce the site area of the open space for the provision of other recreational and leisure facilities. Members of the public could make use of the all weather running track in Sham Shui Po Sports Ground which was open for use by the public free of charge and aside from that, eight existing parks or playgrounds in SSP District under LCSD's management were provided with jogging tracks.

Provision of open space in SSP District

18. In response to Ms Cyd HO's enquiry about the actual provision of open space in SSP District as compared to the standards and guidelines stated in the Hong Kong Planning Standards and Guidelines ("HKPSG"), AD(LS)1/LCSD advised that counting the approximately 68 and 31 hectares of open space respectively provided by LCSD and the Housing Authority ("HA"), the overall open space provision in SSP District could meet the standards specified in HKPSG, with a surplus of about 19 hectares over the

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standard of provision of open space.

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19. Expressing concern about the locations of the existing 99 hectares of public open space in SSP District and whether they were easily accessible by the public, Ms Cyd HO requested the Administration to provide after the meeting the distribution of the public open space provided by LCSD and HA in SSP District in its paper to be submitted to the Public Works Subcommittee ("PWSC") and the Finance Committee ("FC") for approval.

Conclusion

Admin

20. Summing up, the Chairman said that members did not object to the Administration's submission of the funding proposal to PWSC. She requested the Administration to also provide, in its paper to be submitted to PWSC/FC, responses to issues/suggestions raised by members on the proposed open space project, including the feasibility of enhancing the provision of fitness stations for the elderly and according priority/offering concessionary rate to primary/secondary schools for use of the proposed 7-a-side artificial turf football pitch during non-peak hours.

V. Signature Projects (Kwun Tong District Council, Yau Tsim Mong District Council, Tuen Mun District Council and Yuen Long District Council)

(LC Paper Nos. CB(2)1381/14-15(03) & (04), CB(2)1322/14-15(01) and CB(2)1417/14-15(01))

21. As the item also involved funding proposals, the Chairman reminded Members to observe RoP 83A, which governed the disclosure of pecuniary interests, before they spoke on the matter.

22. At the invitation of the Chairman, SHA updated Members on the latest developments concerning the implementation of the Signature Project Scheme ("SPS"). Chairman of Kwun Tong DC ("Chairman/KTDC"), Chairman of District Facilities Management Committee ("DFMC") of the Yau Tsim Mong ("YTM") DC ("Chairman/YTMDFMC"), Vice Chairman of Tuen Mun ("TM") DC and Chairman of Yuen Long ("YL") DC then took turns to brief Members on the following six proposed SPS projects -

- (a) "Construction of Lift Tower at Shung Yan Street in Kwun Tong" ("the Lift Tower Project") and "Construction of Music Fountains at Kwun Tong Promenade" ("the Promenade Project") in KT District;

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- (b) "Yau Tsim Mong Multicultural Activity Centre" ("the Multicultural Activity Centre Project") in YTM District;
- (c) "Revitalization of Tuen Mun River and Surrounding Areas" ("the Tuen Mun River Project") and "Promotion of Youth Development in Tuen Mun" in TM District; and
- (d) "Construction of a Yuen Long District Community Services Building" in YL District.

The Lift Tower Project and the Promenade Project

23. While expressing support for the Lift Tower Project, Mr WU Chi-wai said that he could not support the Promenade Project. According to his understanding, the construction of music fountains along the KT Promenade would necessitate the conversion of grass-beds into concrete-paved areas. Given that similar structures had been built in the vicinity, he hoped that Kwun Tong DC would re-consider its proposal.

24. Chairman/KTDC responded that the proposed music fountains would be located at Phase 2 of the KT Promenade with a site area of approximately 3 740 square metres which only amounted to about 2% of the entire promenade. For better amalgamation with the relaxed environment of the KT Promenade, the design concept of the music fountains would emphasize on openness, greenery and urban connectivity by creating a pleasant waterfront environment. The proposed scope of works included the construction of music fountains with animated lighting and sound effects. Chairman/KTDC further advised that members of KTDC had proposed a total of 16 options for implementation under SPS and had established a working group to look into those options. An opinion survey conducted by some KTDC members also indicated that over 85% of the respondents supported the proposal of constructing music fountains at the KT Promenade.

25. The Deputy Chairman and Dr Priscilla LEUNG said that they were supportive of the Promenade Project which aimed to create an entertainment attraction at the KT Promenade to showcase the vibrancy and glamorous night vista of the Victoria Harbour for free public enjoyment. The Deputy Chairman considered that through the construction of the music fountains together with the integration of dynamic lighting, music features and special effects, the Promenade Project would help generate a constant flow of people/visitors, thereby providing business opportunities to the neighbourhood and contributing to the "Energizing Kowloon East" initiative of transforming Kowloon East into a lively business district. Given its prominent location facing the Kai Tak Cruise Terminal, the Promenade Project would also be

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conducive to enhancing the attractiveness of the Cruise Terminal. In anticipation of the increased traffic volume after the Promenade Project had been completed, the Deputy Chairman enquired about the mitigating measures to be adopted to ease traffic congestion and the provision of car parking facilities for coaches and vehicles in the vicinity.

26. In response, Chairman/KTDC and District Officer (KT) advised that -

- (a) as the properties in the proximity of the KT Promenade were mainly commercial or industrial buildings, there was an abundant supply of car parks in that district during weekends;
- (b) as complementary facilities of the "Energizing Kowloon East" initiative, suitable locations would be designated for vehicles/coaches to drop off and pick up passengers near the KT Promenade; and
- (c) KTDC would cooperate with the Police to implement traffic management measures to avoid traffic congestion in the future.

27. Responding to the Deputy Chairman's further enquiry about greening measures to be taken along the KT Promenade, Chairman/KTDC said that greening measures, including planting of trees and selection of planting species, were already in place.

28. The Chairman asked whether consideration would be given to opening up the KT Promenade, upon completion of the relevant construction works, for artists and arts groups to stage performances, so as to help ease the problem of shortage of performance venues in Hong Kong.

29. Chairman/KTDC responded that the KT Promenade had all along provided a platform for staging various community activities, e.g. the Kwun Tong Festival and charity walk. The "Fly the Flyover01" venue, which was adjacent to the promenade and adopted an open-style design, had also attracted young performers to stage performances, exhibitions and events related to creativity, arts and culture for public enjoyment. The Promenade Project would further provide a platform for organizing interactive water-friendly activities and staging cultural performances.

30. In reply to Dr Priscilla LEUNG's and Ms Claudia MO's enquiries, Chairman/KTDC and District Officer (KT) advised that -

- (a) since the opening of Phase 1 in January 2010, the KT Promenade had become a popular scenic spot for people to relax

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and had been well-received by the public, with over 30 000 visitors every month. During day time, young people and the working population nearby like to take a break there. In the evening, visitors would go there to enjoy the beautiful views of the Victoria Harbour. The special tower landmark, mist feature and seaside boardwalk had created a surrealistic and romantic atmosphere;

- (b) KTDC proposed to take forward the Promenade Project to further enhance the attractiveness of the KT Promenade. Through the construction of the music fountains and wet play area, together with the integration of dynamic lighting, music features and special effects, the Promenade Project would help promote a water-friendly culture; and
- (c) the proposed music fountains and wet play area could produce dynamic and interactive effects especially for children.

31. Expressing support for the six SPS projects proposed respectively by KTDC, YTMDC, TMDC and YLDC, Mr Tony TSE asked whether the Lift Tower Project fell within the scope of the Universal Accessibility ("UA") Programme. Chairman/KTDC replied in the negative, advising that the UA Programme was launched by the Government to enhance the barrier-free access facilities for existing public walkways maintained by the Highways Department. The Lift Tower Project proposed by KTDC would be located within Hong Ning Road Recreation Ground which aimed to facilitate the elderly and people with disabilities to get around the community. The proposed scope of works included the construction of a lift tower with two passenger lift cars, the construction of a link bridge connecting Hong Ning Road Recreation Ground and Shung Yan Street and upgrading works for the associated slope.

The Multicultural Activity Centre Project

32. Dr Helena WONG enquired about the number of proposals received by YTMDC and the criteria adopted by DFMC in the selection of partner organization for the project. Noting that New Home Association ("NHA") was the selected partner organization to manage, operate, and provide routine maintenance to the Activity Centre, she was concerned whether other non-profit-making organizations ("NPOs") serving ethnic minorities ("EMs") would be allowed to use the facilities of the Activity Centre.

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33. Chairman/YTMDFMC responded that -

- (a) DFMC of YTMDC was tasked to work out the selection criteria. The assessment criteria included, amongst others, administrative and management capabilities as well as resources to operate the Activity Centre and to deliver the services, artistic merit of the programmes/activities proposed by NPOs and their experience in providing similar services;
- (b) based on the selection criteria endorsed by DFMC, YTM District Office ("YTMDO") invited NPOs to submit proposals on the operation of the Activity Centre and the provision of services that were in line with the theme of "Promoting Multiculturalism and Advancing Social Cohesion". Invitation for submission of proposals was published in two local Chinese and English newspapers and the website of YTMDC in July 2013. YTMDO also sent letters in August 2013 to 13 NPOs which provided services to EMs inviting them to submit proposals. Two proposals were received by the deadline in September 2013, one from NHA and the other from the Yang Memorial Methodist Social Service ("YMMSS");
- (c) after an open and fair assessment process, NHA was selected as the partner organization to manage, operate and provide routine maintenance to the Activity Centre on a self-financing basis. The scores awarded to NHA and YMMSS were 910 and 839 respectively, out of the full score of 1 200; and
- (d) NHA would provide venue hiring services. NPOs could hire the venues at a relatively low rent for organizing activities whereas private organizations were required to pay the market rent. NHA also agreed to the free provision of venues for provision of free activities for EMs in the Activity Centre for at least one day per week.

34. Dr CHIANG Lai-wan, Ms Claudia MO, Mr NG Leung-sing and Dr Priscilla LEUNG expressed strong support for the proposed construction of the Activity Centre, taking into account the concentration of EMs in YTM District. Dr CHIANG held the view that in light of the cultural vibrancy and ethnic diversity of the district, the selection of partner organization for the project should give due regard to the religious background of prospective partner organizations. In her opinion, it was a right decision for DFMC to select NHA as the partner organization to operate the Activity Centre, since NHA was a trustworthy partner with the requisite expertise, capability and

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resources without any religious background impeding its provision of services to EMs of different races. Expressing concern about the fee-charging policy of NHA, she asked whether the fees would be set at a reasonable level so as to ensure that EMs and low-income families would not be deprived of the chance to use the services provided in the Activity Centre due to high fees. Ms MO and Mr NG were also concerned about the monitoring mechanism to ensure that NHA's provision of services was satisfactory. Ms MO further sought information on the venue hiring arrangements for various activity venues under the management of NHA.

35. In response, Chairman/YTMDFMC and District Officer (YTM) advised that -

- (a) YTMDC aimed to construct a multicultural activity centre, with a view to promoting multiculturalism and advancing social cohesion in the district;
- (b) community groups could hire the multi-function rooms in the Activity Centre for holding of activities. Applications for hiring of the multi-function rooms from EM groups with addresses registered in YTM District would be accorded a higher priority;
- (c) according to NHA's preliminary fee schedule, an NPO would be offered fee reductions/waivers for venue hire charges if it was a recognized charitable institution or trust of a public character under section 88 of the Inland Revenue Ordinance (Cap. 112);
- (d) charges of the activities and services would be set, having regard to relevant considerations such as organizations providing similar services and the principle of self-financing. Some of the services (e.g. the "Cultural Ambassador Scheme", Cultural Exchange Area as well as employment training and resource centre) would nevertheless be provided free-of-charge to EMs; and
- (e) on the question of management and monitoring, there would be a two-tier structure with a Steering Committee and an Advisory Committee. The Steering Committee would monitor NHA's service quality standards and ensure that NHA carried out the terms in the agreement to be signed between NHA and YTMDO about the operation, directions and strategies of the project. The Advisory Committee would advise on the development of the project and facilitate communication between NHA and EM communities.

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36. Dr Helena WONG said that she could not subscribe to the view of Dr CHIANG Lai-wan that the religious background of the prospective partner should be taken into account in the selection of partner organization for the Multicultural Activity Centre Project, as it ran contrary to the notion of equal opportunities. She requested that a copy of the service agreement to be signed between YTMDC and NHA be provided to PWSC and/or FC when the project proposal was submitted for consideration by PWSC and FC.

37. On members' views, Chairman/YTMDFMC stressed that religious background had not been a factor in YTMDC members' assessment of prospective partner organizations.

38. Responding to Dr CHIANG Lai-wan's further enquiry, District Officer (YTM) said that the Activity Centre would be located in a one-storey building with a construction floor area of approximately 1 096 square metres. To comply with the statutory building and fire services requirements, the building should include water tanks for fire services/sprinkler installations and mechanical and electrical plant rooms. District Officer (YTM) stressed that in finalizing the detailed design of the Activity Centre, members of YTMDC had strived to maximize the usable area.

39. Noting that a mini-market, a café and multicultural shops would be provided in the Activity Centre, Mr Tony TSE enquired about rental policy of NHA for these facilities. District Officer (YTM) responded that the proposed key facilities in the Activity Centre included (a) six shops to be operated by EMs, (b) a mini café for light food and beverage to support functions held in the Centre and (c) a mini-market selling daily necessities including items for EMs. As NHA proposed to introduce an entrepreneurship pilot scheme for EMs to sell products featuring their ethnic characteristics in the Activity Centre, the six EMs shops would be let out at market rental equivalent to simulate real life situations during the actual operation. Income generated from self-financed services or facilities of the Activity Centre would be ploughed back to sustain the operation of the Centre.

40. In response to Mr MA Fung-kwok's concern about the sustainability of the Multicultural Activity Centre Project, Chairman/YTMDFMC said that NHA had established an ethnic minority support service centre at Battery Street which was at a very close distance to the proposed Multicultural Activity Centre under discussion. It was believed that the two centres could have co-operation in future to achieve a synergy effect in terms of operational advantages, conducive to the sustainability of the Activity Centre. This apart, NHA had assured DFMC that it would endeavour to enhance the sustainability of the Centre through, for instance, the use of the space with a

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view to generating revenue to offset the operational costs and improving space utilization by allowing other local organizations to rent the activity rooms for organizing different activities.

The Tuen Mun River Project

41. The Chairman, Mr IP Kwok-him and Mr MA Fung-kwok expressed strong support for the SPS projects proposed by KTDC, YTMDC, TMDC and YLDC, as they believed that the project proposals identified by respective DCs could best meet the aspirations of local communities. Regarding the Tuen Mun River Project which aimed to revitalize and make more vibrant the areas along the shores of the Tuen Mun River and its surrounding areas, Mr IP sought details of the proposed scope of works of the project.

42. In response, District Officer (TM) advised that one of the major proposed works was to reconstruct an idle site near Choi Yee Bridge to provide a leisure area for public enjoyment. The site was considered suitable for the proposed works owing to its prime location. TMDC proposed to implement the Tuen Mun River Project as one of the SPS projects for TM District with a view to extending the effect of a series of beautification works carried out by the Government in the surrounding areas of the Tuen Mun River in recent years.

Management and maintenance of district facilities built under SPS

43. Expressing concern over the future maintenance of completed facilities implemented under SPS, Mr Tony TSE called on the Administration to provide advice or information to DCs (in particular those who partnered with NPOs in delivering their SPS projects) in working out the budget for carrying out the necessary maintenance works.

44. In response, Deputy Director of Home Affairs (1) advised that DCs, which took the lead in planning and implementing their SPS projects, might partner with NPOs or government departments to deliver their SPS projects. For projects operated and managed by government departments, the concerned government departments would undertake the subsequent management and maintenance of the SPS facilities upon project completion. If DCs partnered with NPOs, the partner organizations should bear the recurrent consequences of the completed facilities on a self-financing basis. To this end, NPOs were encouraged to pursue measures to generate income for the SPS projects so as to achieve sustainability in the long run.

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45. Mr WU Chi-wai reiterated his concern over the Administration's allocation of \$200 million for use by the Home Affairs Department Headquarters and 18 District Offices for financing preliminary studies and consultancies and employment of non-civil service contract staff for carrying out the requisite preparatory and supporting work before individual funding proposals on SPS projects were submitted to PWSC and/or FC for approval. He repeated his request made at the Panel meeting on 10 April 2015 for the Administration's provision of a detailed breakdown on the distribution of the \$200 million among the 27 SPS projects proposed by the 18 DCs.

Admin

Summing up

46. In concluding the discussion, the Chairman said that Members supported the six SPS projects proposed respectively by KTDC, YTMDC, TMDC and YLDC and raised no objection to the Administration submitting the proposals to PWSC and FC.

47. The Chairman added that the Secretariat had received emails from a member of the public, expressing concerns over the Lift Tower Project put forward by KTDC. While the emails had been issued to members of the Panel on Home Affairs for reference, she suggested KTDC to take note of the views made by that member of the public.

VI. Progress update on the work of safeguarding and promoting Intangible Cultural Heritage

(LC Paper Nos. CB(2)1381/14-15(05) and (06))

48. At the invitation of the Chairman, Under Secretary for Home Affairs ("USHA") provided a progress update on the Administration's work of safeguarding and promoting local intangible cultural heritage ("ICH") subsequent to the promulgation of the first ICH inventory of Hong Kong, details of which were set out in the Administration's paper.

Need to legislate for the preservation and protection of ICH

49. Dr Kenneth CHAN said that it was his understanding that the governments of the Mainland and Macao Special Administrative Region had legislation on the protection of ICH. He considered that the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region ("HKSAR") should make reference to overseas experience and seriously consider the need to legislate for the preservation and protection of ICH in Hong Kong. Noting that Hong Kong got "zero" mark in respect of "number of World Heritage cultural sites" in the Travel & Tourism Competitiveness Report 2015 ("the Report")

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published by the World Economic Forum ("WEF"), Dr CHAN called on the Administration to look into the matter to see whether there was any deficiency regarding the Government's work of safeguarding and promoting ICH.

50. USHA responded with the following points -

- (a) the Administration had made reference to overseas experience. According to its understanding, many countries including Singapore, the United Kingdom, Australia and Canada had not legislated for the protection of ICH;
- (b) the HKSAR Government had all along been adopting administrative measures which met the needs of Hong Kong for safeguarding ICH. Citing traditional Chinese opera as an example, the Government had been implementing an array of administrative measures over the past few years to support the preservation, promotion and transmission of this traditional Chinese art form. The Administration currently had no plan to legislate in this regard; and
- (c) it should be noted that the Report contained an extensive data section, which featured individual scorecards for each of the 141 economies covered by the Travel & Tourism Competitiveness Index ("TTCI"). The Report provided a complete snapshot of an economy's performance in all the indicators of TTCI. While HKSAR's scores for a few indicators might be low, its global rankings and scores for other indicators in the Travel & Tourism sector were satisfactory. Places like Singapore also received the same score as Hong Kong in the area of "number of world heritage cultural sites".

Government's work in safeguarding and transmission of ICH items

51. The Deputy Chairman said that the latest Report published by WEF had revealed how Hong Kong was perceived by the international community in safeguarding ICH. In his view, the Administration should critically review the measures adopted for the preservation and promotion of items inscribed onto the national list of ICH (including the Jiao Festival of Cheung Chau, dragon boat water parade of Tai O, fire dragon dance of Tai Hang and Yu Lan Ghost Festival of the Hong Kong Chiu Chow community) and introduce, if and where appropriate, enhanced measures conducive to promoting public awareness of and interest in ICH.

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52. USHA responded that -

- (a) the HKSAR Government had submitted applications on three occasions for inscription of local items onto the national list of ICH. The State Council announced in December 2014 that four items (including the arts of the Guqin, Quanzhen temples Taoist ritual music, Hakka unicorn dance in Hang Hau, Sai Kung and Wong Tai Sin belief and customs) from Hong Kong had been successfully inscribed onto the fourth national list of ICH. Together with the six items inscribed earlier (i.e. Cantonese opera, herbal tea, Cheung Chau Jiao Festival, Tai O dragon boat water parade, Yu Lan Ghost Festival of the Hong Kong Chiu Chow community and Tai Hang fire dragon dance), Hong Kong currently had a total of 10 local items on the national list;
- (b) the Government would step up its collaboration with various organizations and stakeholders to promote public awareness of and interest in ICH items inscribed on the national list, through a wide array of activities including exhibitions, talks, workshops, seminars, field visits as well as educational activities for teachers and students; and
- (c) on the international front, the Administration would strengthen the co-operation with the tourism sector with a view to promoting traditional festivals and Hong Kong's ICH to overseas visitors.

53. The Chairman, Mr MA Fung-kwok and Mr LEUNG Che-cheung expressed similar view that the measures devised and resources allocated by the Administration for safeguarding and transmission of ICH items remained inadequate. Noting that LCS D planned to set up a dedicated ICH Office, they sought details about the work to be taken forward by the ICH Office and the manpower to be involved. In their views, the Administration should draw reference from overseas experience, such as France, to adopt more proactive strategy and targeted approach to enhance public awareness of and interest in local ICH. Mr LEUNG further suggested that consideration be given to producing television ("TV") announcements in the public interest ("APIs") on local ICH and partnering with DCs in taking forward promotion initiatives in this area. His view was echoed by Mr IP Kwok-him.

54. USHA responded that LCS D would upgrade the Intangible Cultural Heritage Unit currently under the Hong Kong Heritage Museum to a dedicated ICH Office to heighten its endeavours on the identification, documentation, research, preservation, promotion and transmission of ICH.

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The new ICH Office would be staffed by existing civil servants in the Intangible Cultural Heritage Unit and aside from that, a further provision would be provided for employment of six additional staff to implement the relevant measures. USHA added that LCSD was also planning to make use of the Sam Tung Uk Museum in Tsuen Wan to house an exhibition and resource centre dedicated to ICH-related exhibitions and associated educational/promotional activities such as talks, seminars, workshops, bearer demonstrations and international conferences. A room would also be set aside for students and the public to access reference materials on local ICH.

55. On the education and promotion fronts, USHA advised that large lantern artworks made by local masters would continue to be displayed during Lunar New Year Lantern Carnival at the Hong Kong Cultural Centre in Tsim Sha Tsui and Mid-Autumn Lantern Carnival at the Victoria Park for the transmission and promotion of the traditional craftsmanship of lantern-making. The ICH Office would also organize talks, demonstrations, field trips and exhibitions on a regular basis with a view to enhancing the public's understanding and awareness of ICH as well as encouraging the participation of the community in the safeguarding of ICH. USHA further said that the Administration would consider Members' suggestions, including the production of TV APIs, co-operation with DCs and appointment of cultural ambassadors to conduct orientation tours to introduce ICH items to the public, in order to raise public awareness of ICH.

56. In response to Mr MA Fung-kwok's enquiry about the collaboration between the Administration and local educational institutions, communities, as well as individual bearers and bearer organizations on preservation of ICH items, USHA said that the Government had stepped up its collaboration with various organizations and stakeholders in the work of safeguarding and promoting ICH, as evidenced by the successful inscription of local items onto the national list of ICH. She advised that the Lord Wilson Heritage Trust under HAB provided funding support to projects aimed at preserving and recording ICH items in Hong Kong. Community organizations and individuals might apply funding from the Trust for implementing heritage-related activities and research projects including those relating to ICH.

57. In reply to Mr CHAN Chi-chuen's enquiry, USHA advised that following the promulgation of Hong Kong's first ICH inventory in June 2014, the Government would enhance the safeguarding measures for ICH, including the identification, documentation, research, preservation, promotion and transmission of such heritage. The Government would select by batches items that had high cultural value and required urgent preservation for conducting more in-depth studies and drawing up a representative list of ICH

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for Hong Kong based on the selection criteria and assessment methods endorsed by the ICH Advisory Committee. The representative list would provide reference for the Government in setting priorities in the planning of safeguarding measures for ICH.

58. Mr Tony TSE noted that at the end of 2014, LCSD launched a preliminary online ICH database via the Multimedia Information System of Hong Kong Public Libraries to provide information on the 480 inventory items for public access. He enquired about the utilization of the website since LCSD's launch of the database which, in his view, was an indicator of public reception of local ICH and would shed light on the Government's work in the promotion of ICH in future.

59. Deputy Director (Culture)/LCSD ("DD(C)/LCSD") responded that the online ICH database served to provide brief descriptions and photos of all the 480 inventory items for public access. While the database would be updated regularly with the addition of new information gathered from ICH studies and researches, LCSD was in the process of developing an independent and comprehensive online ICH database to provide information to a much fuller extent on those ICH items to be selected as representative items in order to raise public awareness of ICH. DD(C)/LCSD undertook to provide information on the utilization of the website since LCSD's launch of the preliminary online ICH database via the Multimedia Information System of Hong Kong Public Libraries after the meeting.

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60. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 4:30 pm.

Council Business Division 2
Legislative Council Secretariat
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