

立法會
Legislative Council

LC Paper No. CB(2)329/18-19

Ref : CB2/H/5/18

House Committee of the Legislative Council

**Minutes of the 6th meeting
held in Conference Room 1 of the Legislative Council Complex
at 2:30 pm on Friday, 23 November 2018**

Members present :

Hon Starry LEE Wai-king, SBS, JP (Chairman)
Hon Dennis KWOK Wing-hang (Deputy Chairman)
Hon James TO Kun-sun
Hon LEUNG Yiu-chung
Hon Abraham SHEK Lai-him, GBS, JP
Hon Tommy CHEUNG Yu-yan, GBS, JP
Hon Jeffrey LAM Kin-fung, GBS, JP
Hon WONG Ting-kwong, GBS, JP
Hon CHAN Hak-kan, BBS, JP
Hon CHAN Kin-por, GBS, JP
Dr Hon Priscilla LEUNG Mei-fun, SBS, JP
Hon WONG Kwok-kin, SBS, JP
Hon Mrs Regina IP LAU Suk-yee, GBS, JP
Hon Paul TSE Wai-chun, JP
Hon Claudia MO
Hon Steven HO Chun-yin, BBS
Hon Frankie YICK Chi-ming, SBS, JP
Hon WU Chi-wai, MH
Hon YIU Si-wing, BBS
Hon MA Fung-kwok, SBS, JP
Hon Charles Peter MOK, JP
Hon CHAN Chi-chuen
Hon CHAN Han-pan, BBS, JP
Hon LEUNG Che-cheung, SBS, MH, JP
Hon Kenneth LEUNG
Hon Alice MAK Mei-kuen, BBS, JP
Dr Hon KWOK Ka-ki
Hon KWOK Wai-keung, JP
Dr Hon Fernando CHEUNG Chiu-hung

Dr Hon Helena WONG Pik-wan
Hon IP Kin-yuen
Dr Hon Elizabeth QUAT, BBS, JP
Hon Martin LIAO Cheung-kong, SBS, JP
Hon POON Siu-ping, BBS, MH
Dr Hon CHIANG Lai-wan, SBS, JP
Ir Dr Hon LO Wai-kwok, SBS, MH, JP
Hon CHUNG Kwok-pan
Hon Alvin YEUNG
Hon Andrew WAN Siu-kin
Hon CHU Hoi-dick
Hon Jimmy NG Wing-ka, JP
Dr Hon Junius HO Kwan-yiu, JP
Hon HO Kai-ming
Hon LAM Cheuk-ting
Hon Holden CHOW Ho-ding
Hon SHIU Ka-fai
Hon SHIU Ka-chun
Hon Wilson OR Chong-shing, MH
Hon YUNG Hoi-yan
Dr Hon Pierre CHAN
Hon CHAN Chun-ying, JP
Hon Tanya CHAN
Hon CHEUNG Kwok-kwan, JP
Hon LUK Chung-hung, JP
Hon LAU Kwok-fan, MH
Dr Hon CHENG Chung-tai
Hon KWONG Chun-yu
Hon Jeremy TAM Man-ho
Hon Gary FAN Kwok-wai
Hon AU Nok-hin
Hon Vincent CHENG Wing-shun, MH
Hon Tony TSE Wai-chuen, BBS

Members absent :

Prof Hon Joseph LEE Kok-long, SBS, JP
Hon Michael TIEN Puk-sun, BBS, JP
Hon Christopher CHEUNG Wah-fung, SBS, JP
Hon HUI Chi-fung
Hon Kenneth LAU Ip-keung, BBS, MH, JP

Clerk in attendance :

Miss Flora TAI Clerk to the House Committee

Staff in attendance :

Mr Kenneth CHEN, SBS	Secretary General
Ms Connie FUNG	Legal Adviser
Miss Odelia LEUNG	Deputy Secretary General
Ms Anita SIT	Assistant Secretary General 1
Ms Dora WAI	Assistant Secretary General 3
Mr Matthew LOO	Assistant Secretary General 4
Mr Timothy TSO	Senior Assistant Legal Adviser 1
Mr YICK Wing-kin	Senior Assistant Legal Adviser 2
Mr Kelvin LEE	Senior Assistant Legal Adviser 3
Ms Amy YU	Principal Council Secretary 1
Ms Hallie CHAN	Head (Public Information)
Ms Alice LEUNG	Chief Council Secretary (2)6
Miss Rachel DAI	Assistant Legal Adviser 2
Mr Alvin CHUI	Assistant Legal Adviser 3
Miss Connie AU	Senior Council Secretary (2)6
Mr Richard WONG	Senior Council Secretary (2)8
Miss Michelle TANG	Council Secretary (2)6
Ms Anna CHEUNG	Senior Legislative Assistant (2)3
Mr Arthur KAN	Legislative Assistant (2)7

Action

I. Confirmation of minutes of meeting

Minutes of 5th meeting held on 16 November 2018

(LC Paper No. CB(2)289/18-19)

The minutes were confirmed.

II. Matters arising

Report by the Chairman on her meeting with the Chief Secretary for Administration

The Administration's replies to questions and enquiries raised by Members

Action

2. The Chairman said that the Chief Secretary for Administration ("CS") had reiterated that he had urged respective Directors of Bureaux to make their best efforts to provide the information and data requested by Members, and enhance their communication with Members before or after their replies were made as well as understand Members' concerns so as to work out possible solutions to address their concerns.

Joint letter from 24 Members requesting CS to explain the matter concerning Mr Victor MALLET being refused entry ("the matter concerned")

3. The Chairman said that she had passed to CS a copy of the joint letter from 24 Members and relayed to CS the views and concerns expressed by various Members on the matter concerned at the last House Committee ("HC") meeting on 16 November 2018. She further said that she had also conveyed the views of Members of the pro-establishment camp that they generally supported the way the Immigration Department handled the matter concerned. These Members further pointed out that the matter concerned had demonstrated the determination of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region ("HKSAR") to uphold the principle of "one country, two systems" and that the matter concerned had nothing to do with freedom of the press.

4. The Deputy Chairman said that he had clearly indicated to CS that freedom of the press was one of the core values of Hong Kong. He and Members of the pro-democracy camp had expressed deep regret and grief, and considered it unacceptable for Mr Victor MALLET being refused the renewal of his work visa and his entry to Hong Kong as a visitor. He had further pointed out that the matter concerned had aroused the concern of the international community. He had received enquiries from foreign governments and enterprises recently and they had also expressed grave concern about the matter concerned. He had requested CS to attend a special HC meeting to explain to Members the matter concerned.

5. The Chairman advised that CS had reiterated that the HKSAR Government would not comment on individual cases or disclose information regarding individual cases.

Action

6. Dr KWOK Ka-ki reiterated his view that the matter concerned had seriously impacted on freedom of the press in Hong Kong. Referring to the recently released Annual Report of the US-China Economic and Security Review Commission under the United States ("US") Congress ("the USCC Report"), Dr KWOK considered that the matter concerned would impact on Hong Kong's economy, and therefore, CS should attend a special HC meeting as soon as possible, and should also expeditiously follow up on matters relating to the impact of the USCC Report on Hong Kong's economy.

III. Business arising from previous Council meetings

Legal Service Division report on subsidiary legislation gazetted on 16 November 2018 and tabled in Council on 21 November 2018 (*LC Paper No. LS20/18-19*)

7. At the invitation of the Chairman, Legal Adviser briefed Members on the report prepared by the Legal Service Division on eight items of subsidiary legislation (i.e. L.N. 217 to L.N. 224) which were gazetted on 16 November 2018 and tabled in Council on 21 November 2018.

8. Dr KWOK Ka-ki considered it necessary to form a subcommittee to study in detail the Banking (Amendment) Ordinance 2018 (Commencement) (No. 2) Notice 2018 (L.N. 220), the Banking (Exposure Limits) Rules (L.N. 221), the Banking (Capital) (Amendment) Rules 2018 (L.N. 222), and the Banking (Disclosure) (Amendment) (No. 2) Rules 2018 (L.N. 223). Members agreed. Dr KWOK Ka-ki and Mr CHAN Chun-ying agreed to join the proposed subcommittee.

9. Dr KWOK Ka-ki also considered it necessary to form a subcommittee to study the Antiquities and Monuments (Declaration of Monuments and Historical Buildings) (Consolidation) (Amendment) Notice 2018 (L.N. 224) in detail. Members agreed. Dr KWOK Ka-ki and Mr Tony TSE agreed to join the proposed subcommittee.

10. Members did not raise any questions on the other three items of subsidiary legislation (i.e. L.N. 217 to L.N. 219).

11. The Chairman reminded Members that the deadline for amending the above eight items of subsidiary legislation would be the Council meeting of 12 December 2018, or that of 9 January 2019 if extended by a resolution of the Council.

IV. Further business for the Council meeting of 28 November 2018

(a) Tabling of papers

Report No. 5/18-19 of the House Committee on Consideration of Subsidiary Legislation and Other Instruments
(*LC Paper No. CB(2)291/18-19*)

12. The Chairman said that the Report covered five items of subsidiary legislation and the period for amending them would expire at the Council meeting of 28 November 2018. The Chairman further said that as Mr James TO had given notice to move two proposed resolutions to respectively repeal two of the items of subsidiary legislation covered in the Report (i.e. the Inland Revenue (Double Taxation Relief and Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with respect to Taxes on Income) (Republic of India) Order (L.N. 155) and the Inland Revenue (Double Taxation Relief with respect to Taxes on Income and Prevention of Tax Evasion and Avoidance) (Republic of Finland) Order (L.N. 156)), Members would have the opportunity to speak on the two Orders. The Chairman added that no Member had indicated intention to speak on the other three items of subsidiary legislation covered in the Report.

(b) Bills - resumption of debate on Second Reading, Consideration by Committee of the Whole Council and Third Reading

(i) Companies (Amendment) Bill 2018

(ii) Travel Industry Bill

13. The Chairman said that at the HC meeting held on 16 November 2018, Members did not raise objection to the resumption of the Second Reading debates on the above two Bills at the meeting.

(c) **Members' motions**

Two proposed resolutions under section 34(2) of the Interpretation and General Clauses Ordinance (Cap. 1) to be moved by Hon James TO to:

- (i) **repeal the Inland Revenue (Double Taxation Relief and Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with respect to Taxes on Income) (Republic of India) Order; and**
- (ii) **repeal the Inland Revenue (Double Taxation Relief with respect to Taxes on Income and Prevention of Tax Evasion and Avoidance) (Republic of Finland) Order**
(LC Paper No. CB(3)185/18-19)

14. The Chairman said that the above two proposed resolutions would be dealt with at the meeting.

V. The Chief Executive's Question Time on 5 December 2018

15. The Chairman said that the Chief Executive's Question Time would be held from 11:00 am to 11:30 am, and the regular Council meeting of 5 December 2018 would be held immediately after the Chief Executive's Question Time ended.

VI. Business for the Council meeting of 5 December 2018

- (a) **Questions**
(LC Paper No. CB(3)167/18-19)

16. The Chairman said that 22 questions (six oral and 16 written) had been scheduled for the meeting.

- (b) **Bill - First Reading and moving of Second Reading**

17. The Chairman said that no notice had been received yet.

Action

(c) **Government motion**

18. The Chairman said that no notice had been received yet.

(d) **Members' motions**

19. The Chairman said that as Mr CHUNG Kwok-pan had withdrawn the notice of his motion on "Conducting consultation and discussions on the legislative procedure for enacting laws to implement Article 23 of the Basic Law", only one Member's motion not intended to have legislative effect which had stood over from previous Council meetings would be dealt with at the meeting.

Report of HC on Consideration of Subsidiary Legislation

20. The Chairman invited Members to note the list tabled at the meeting (LC Paper No. CB(3)175/18-19), which contained one item of subsidiary legislation the period for amendment of which would expire at the Council meeting of 5 December 2018. She reminded Members to indicate their intention by 5:00 pm on Tuesday, 27 November 2018, should they wish to speak on that item of subsidiary legislation.

VII. Advance information on business for the Council meeting of 12 December 2018

Bill - First Reading and moving of Second Reading

21. The Chairman said that the Discrimination Legislation (Miscellaneous Amendments) Bill 2018 would be introduced into the Council at the meeting, and HC would consider the Bill at its meeting on 14 December 2018.

VIII. Position on Bills Committees and subcommittees

(LC Paper No. CB(2)295/18-19(01))

(LC Paper No. CB(2)290/18-19)

22. The Chairman said that as at 22 November 2018, there were nine Bills Committees, 12 subcommittees under HC and four subcommittees on policy issues ("policy subcommittees") under Panels in action. Nine policy subcommittees were on the waiting list.

Action

23. The Chairman informed Members that at the request of Members, the Secretariat had recently reviewed its manpower situation. With the concurrence of The Legislative Council Commission, the Secretariat would deploy existing resources and make arrangements for the first two policy subcommittees on the waiting list to be activated in early December 2018, namely the Subcommittee to Follow Up Issues Related to Inadequate Housing and Relevant Housing Policies under the Panel on Housing and the Joint Subcommittee on Issues Relating to the Regulation of Devices and Development of the Beauty Industry under the Panel on Health Services and the Panel on Commerce and Industry. Members noted and raised no question.

24. The Chairman further said that Dr Pierre CHAN, Chairman of the Panel on Health Services, wrote to her on 19 November 2018 requesting HC to consider the Panel's proposal to swap the order of activation of the two policy subcommittees under the Panel, namely the Subcommittee on Issues Relating to the Development of Chinese Medicine and the Subcommittee on Issues Relating to the Support for Cancer Patients, which were the third subcommittee and the seventh subcommittee on the waiting list respectively. The Chairman added that the Panel's proposal was to allow early activation of the latter subcommittee when a vacant slot became available and it would not affect the order of activation of other subcommittees on the waiting list. Members agreed to the Panel's proposal.

IX. Report of the joint-Panel delegation of the Panel on Economic Development, Panel on Financial Affairs, Panel on Commerce and Industry, and Panel on Information Technology and Broadcasting on its duty visit to the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area and priority allocation of a debate slot to the Leader of the Delegation (LC Paper No. CB(4)235/18-19)

25. At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr Jeffrey LAM, leader of the joint-Panel delegation of the Panel on Economic Development, Panel on Financial Affairs, Panel on Commerce and Industry, and Panel on Information Technology and Broadcasting ("the Delegation"), said that the Delegation had visited five cities in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area ("the Bay Area") in April 2018 to better understand the development of the Bay Area, as detailed in the Delegation Report. The Delegation considered that the development of the Bay Area would bring new challenges and opportunities to Hong Kong.

Action

Mr LAM further said that to provide an opportunity for Members to express views on the subject and for the Administration to provide its response, the four Panels had proposed to seek HC's approval for priority allocation of a debate slot under rule 14A(h) of the House Rules to him, in his capacity as leader of the Delegation, for moving a motion for debate on the Delegation Report at the Council meeting of 12 December 2018 ("the said Council meeting"). The four Panels had also proposed that in addition to the debate on the Delegation Report, only one other debate on a Member's motion not intended to have legislative effect should be held at the same Council meeting.

26. Ms Claudia MO said that while she did not object to allocating a debate slot to Mr Jeffrey LAM, as leader of the Delegation, for moving a motion for debate on the Delegation Report, she could not quite understand what it meant by "priority allocation". Mr AU Nok-hin considered that it would be more desirable if reports on duty visits conducted by Panels and committees outside Hong Kong could set out concrete recommendations on follow-up actions. He hoped that the Delegation members could provide more details in this regard. Dr KWOK Ka-ki said that as the Council meeting time was precious and some Members might not be interested in discussing the subject, he wondered whether the Delegation Report could be discussed by way of an adjournment debate at a Council meeting.

27. In response, the Chairman explained that if HC acceded to the four Panels' request for priority allocation of a debate slot to Mr Jeffrey LAM, and also agreed to follow the past practice that there should be only one other Member's motion not intended to have legislative effect at the said Council meeting, then only one debate slot would be available for Members to apply and in accordance with the established practice, the debate on the Delegation Report would be held ahead of the other motion debate. The Chairman then invited Members' views.

28. As no Members raised objection, the Chairman said that HC would accede to the four Panels' request for priority allocation of a debate slot to Mr Jeffrey LAM, leader of the Delegation, for moving a motion for debate on the Delegation Report at the said Council meeting.

29. Dr Helena WONG suggested that in order not to affect Members' opportunities for moving a motion for debate at the said Council meeting, HC should recommend that in addition to the motion debate on the Delegation Report, two other motion debates should also be held at the

Action

said Council meeting. Mr YIU Si-wing and Mr Martin LIAO enquired about the details of the relevant arrangements if Members agreed to this suggestion.

30. The Chairman explained that in that case, two debate slots for the said Council meeting would be available for Members to apply. Among these three motion debates, the one on the Delegation Report would be the first to be dealt with. Should any of these motion debates could not be dealt with as originally scheduled, they would stand over to the following Council meetings, as in the case of other debates on Members' motions.

31. Mr CHAN Chi-chuen, Mr WU Chi-wai and Mr James TO expressed support for holding two other motion debates at the said Council meeting, in addition to the motion debate on the Delegation Report. Mr CHAN said that according to the meeting arrangements of Council meetings, Council meetings on Thursdays would be adjourned at around 8:00 pm but many Council meetings were adjourned earlier than 8:00 pm. Mr CHAN cited the Council meeting of 21 November 2018 as an example and pointed out that all business on the Agenda had been concluded several hours before 8:00 pm on Thursday, 22 November 2018. Therefore, it was not improbable to conduct three motion debates at the same Council meeting. Mr WU and Mr TO expressed a similar view that although many Members were keen to discuss the Delegation Report, it was desirable to give more opportunities for individual Members to move their own motions for debate on the subjects that were of their concerns. Mr WU added that there were past occasions where three motion debates were conducted at the same Council meeting, and that would better utilize the meeting time of the Council.

32. Mr Paul TSE said that he did not object to scheduling three motion debates for the said Council meeting. However, the actual timing for dealing with these three motion debates would be affected by various factors such as whether any individual Member would give notice for moving a motion with legislative effect at the relevant Council meeting, e.g. the one to be moved under the Legislative Council (Powers and Privileges) Ordinance (Cap. 382). Dr Priscilla LEUNG also expressed support for holding two other motion debates at the said Council meeting, in addition to the motion debate on the Delegation Report. In Dr LEUNG's view, such an arrangement would better utilize the meeting time of the Council, and also give more opportunities for individual Members to move their own motions for debate. Dr CHIANG Lai-wan said that she would not object if it was only a one-off arrangement that

Action

two other motion debates would be held at the said Council meeting, in addition to the motion debate on the Delegation Report. However, more relevant information should be provided to HC for consideration if it was necessary to change the practice of scheduling no more than two debates initiated by Members at each Council meeting.

33. In conclusion, the Chairman said that the Council had dealt with two Members' motions in addition to a priority allocation of a debate slot on a committee's report at the same meeting in the past. As no Member raised objection, HC would recommend that in addition to the motion to be moved by Mr Jeffrey LAM, leader of the Delegation, for debate on the Delegation Report at the said Council meeting (i.e. the Council meeting of 12 December 2018), there should be two other debates on Members' motions not intended to have legislative effect at that Council meeting.

X. Request of Hon CHUNG Kwok-pan to seek the House Committee's recommendation for the holding of an adjournment debate pursuant to Rule 16(4) of the Rules of Procedure at the Council meeting of 28 November 2018 on the impact of the recent China-United States relations on Hong Kong's economy
(LC Paper No. CB(2)295/18-19(02))

34. At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr CHUNG Kwok-pan said that the impact of the recent China-US relations on Hong Kong's economy was a pressing issue that should be discussed by Members at a Council meeting. Therefore, he had previously sought the President's permission for him to change the subject matter of his motion to be moved at the Council meeting of 5 December 2018, but permission was not given as the required notice period for moving motions at the relevant Council meeting had expired. He had then withdrawn the notice of his motion. Mr CHUNG considered that it was becoming apparent that the recent China-US trade tensions had affected Hong Kong's economy. Furthermore, given Hong Kong's position as an international city, it was necessary to stay alert to the changing international situation, including whether any report issued by overseas institutions/authorities might lead to a negative impact on Hong Kong's economy. In light of the above, he sought HC's recommendation for the holding of an adjournment debate pursuant to Rule 16(4) of the Rules of Procedure ("RoP") at the Council meeting of 28 November 2018 on the impact of the recent China-US relations on Hong Kong's economy, so as to provide an opportunity for Members to discuss the relevant issues, particularly the preventive measures which should be taken by the HKSAR Government.

35. Ms Claudia MO, Mr AU Nok-hin and Dr CHENG Chung-tai expressed a similar view that the subject matter of the proposed adjournment debate warranted discussion. Ms MO considered that whether Hong Kong would be treated as a separate customs territory by a trading partner was a matter for the decision of the trading partner concerned. She, therefore, found it surprising that a government spokesman, when making a response to the USCC Report in which it was recommended that the arrangement to treat Hong Kong and the Mainland as separate customs areas in the export of dual-use technology be reviewed, had asserted that Hong Kong was a separate customs territory under the Basic Law. Mr AU said that it was incumbent upon the HKSAR Government to explain to the public the actions that it had taken in the past few months to lobby the support from the trading partners of Hong Kong to mitigate the impact arising from the China-US trade war on Hong Kong's economy. Dr CHENG said that he had raised two oral questions at the Council meetings of 28 March and 4 July 2018 respectively on the trade relations between Hong Kong and US as well as the Hong Kong Policy Act Report published by the Department of State of US. He would also raise another oral question regarding the measures to be taken by the HKSAR Government in response to the USCC Report at the Council meeting of 5 December 2018. If the proposed adjournment debate was held at the Council meeting, he would be able to explain his reasons for raising these oral questions.

36. Dr KWOK Ka-ki, Mr Kenneth LEUNG and Mr Alvin YEUNG expressed a similar view that given the rising public concern about the impact of the recent China-US trade tensions on Hong Kong, Mr CHUNG Kwok-pan's proposed adjournment debate was warranted. Dr KWOK criticized the HKSAR Government for adopting a hard-line stance on its response to the USCC Report as this might aggravate the situation. Dr KWOK was also worried that US might amend the Hong Kong Policy Act to the effect that Hong Kong would lose its position as a separate customs territory. Mr LEUNG said that Hong Kong manufacturers had already suffered from a considerable decline in orders in recent months, and that he expected that the China-US trade tensions would continue to affect Hong Kong's economy for a period of time in the future. Mr YEUNG considered that even though the USCC Report might not represent the official stance of the US Government, given Hong Kong's position as an open economy, Hong Kong must act on its own initiative to convince the relevant overseas institutions/authorities that it was justified for Hong Kong to continue to operate as a separate customs

Action

territory. Mr YEUNG added that it would be unwise for Hong Kong to create unnecessary disputes within the society which might attract criticisms from the international community.

37. Given the rising public concerns about the impact of the China-US trade tensions on Hong Kong, Mr Holden CHOW, Dr Priscilla LEUNG and Mr CHEUNG Kwok-kwan expressed support for Mr CHUNG Kwok-pan's proposal. Mr CHOW and Dr LEUNG shared a similar concern that Hong Kong's international reputation would be undermined by some people "bad-mouthing" Hong Kong and some overseas institutions/authorities making misleading criticisms. Mr CHOW considered it mutually beneficial for both Hong Kong and US to maintain the existing trading relationship. Dr LEUNG considered it desirable to hold the proposed adjournment debate so that Members would have an opportunity to remind the public and the international community that the implementation of the principle of "one country, two systems" in Hong Kong had from the outset meant to ensure that Hong Kong would maintain its economic advantage and continue to be a free port and a separate customs territory. Mr CHEUNG considered that the findings of the USCC Report were somewhat far-fetching, and therefore, he queried why some Members had uncritically accepted the USCC Report. He called on Members to speak from the perspective of Hong Kong people if the proposed adjournment debate was held.

38. Mr WONG Kwok-kin said that it was not possible for Hong Kong to remain unaffected so long as the problems between China and US were not resolved. Although he would not object to Mr CHUNG Kwok-pan's proposal, he could not subscribe to the view that the USCC Report would signify that the doomsday for Hong Kong would be forthcoming. He considered that such view was intended to scare the public. Expressing support for Mr CHUNG's proposal, Mrs Regina IP considered that the HKSAR Government should explain clearly to Members as well as the public what had been/would be done to maintain Hong Kong's position in the international economy. Mrs IP also pointed out that Hong Kong had been a separate contracting party to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade in 1986 and was a founding member of its successor, the World Trade Organization, which was established in 1995. To her knowledge, Hong Kong had recently signed a Free Trade Agreement ("FTA") with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and had successfully concluded the FTA negotiations with Australia as well.

Action

39. Dr Helena WONG, Mr WU Chi-wai and Mr Andrew WAN supported Mr CHUNG Kwok-pan's proposal, and they shared a similar concern that Hong Kong's economy would be harmed by the recent China-US trade tensions. Dr WONG considered that the best way to maintain Hong Kong's position in the international economy was to avoid "Mainlandization" and to implement "genuine universal suffrage", so that Hong Kong would not be treated as just another city of the Mainland. Mr WU considered it unreasonable to blame anyone for "badmouthing" Hong Kong, as many overseas institutions/authorities had their own views and observations on the recent developments in Hong Kong. He also considered that the holding of the proposed adjournment debate would help the HKSAR Government better understand the business sector's concerns. Mr WAN said that those Members of the pro-democracy camp who had visited US actually lobbied for, instead of "badmouthing", Hong Kong. He considered that the HKSAR Government should address the various concerns raised in the USCC Report, e.g. whether the principle of "one country, two systems" and freedom of the press were being undermined.

40. In conclusion, the Chairman said that as no Member had raised objection to Mr CHUNG Kwok-pan's proposal, HC would recommend that pursuant to RoP16(4), a motion for adjournment of the Council be moved by Mr CHUNG, in addition to two Members' motions not intended to have legislative effect, at the Council meeting of 28 November 2018 for the purpose of conducting a debate on the impact of the recent China-US relations on Hong Kong's economy. Besides, HC would also recommend that the President should give permission to dispense with the requisite notice for moving the motion at the Council meeting of 28 November 2018.

XI. Any other business

41. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 3:19 pm.