

立法會
Legislative Council

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Finance Committee of the Legislative Council

Minutes of the 44th meeting
held at Conference Room 1 of the Legislative Council Complex
on Friday, 17 July 2020, from 9:01 am to 12:32 pm and
from 2:30 pm to 5:36 pm

Members present:

Hon CHAN Kin-por, GBS, JP (Chairman)
Hon CHAN Chun-ying, JP (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
Prof Hon Joseph LEE Kok-long, SBS, JP
Hon Jeffrey LAM Kin-fung, GBS, JP
Hon WONG Ting-kwong, GBS, JP
Hon Starry LEE Wai-king, SBS, JP
Hon CHAN Hak-kan, BBS, 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 Michael TIEN Puk-sun, BBS, JP
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
Hon Dennis KWOK Wing-hang
Hon Christopher CHEUNG Wah-fung, SBS, JP
Dr Hon Fernando CHEUNG Chiu-hung
Dr Hon Helena WONG Pik-wan
Hon IP Kin-yuen
Hon Elizabeth QUAT, BBS, JP
Hon Martin LIAO Cheung-kong, GBS, JP
Hon POON Siu-ping, BBS, MH
Dr Hon CHIANG Lai-wan, SBS, JP
Ir Dr Hon LO Wai-kiwok, SBS, MH, JP
Hon CHUNG Kwok-pan
Hon Alvin YEUNG
Hon Andrew WAN Siu-kin
Hon CHU Hoi-dick
Hon Jimmy NG Wing-ka, BBS, JP
Dr Hon Junius HO Kwan-yiu, JP
Hon LAM Cheuk-ting
Hon Holden CHOW Ho-ding
Hon SHIU Ka-fai, JP
Hon SHIU Ka-chun
Hon Wilson OR Chong-shing, MH
Hon YUNG Hoi-yan, JP
Dr Hon Pierre CHAN
Hon CHEUNG Kwok-kwan, JP
Hon HUI Chi-fung
Hon LUK Chung-hung, JP
Hon LAU Kwok-fan, MH
Hon Kenneth LAU Ip-keung, BBS, MH, JP
Dr Hon CHENG Chung-tai
Hon KWONG Chun-yu
Hon Jeremy TAM Man-ho
Hon Vincent CHENG Wing-shun, MH, JP
Hon Tony TSE Wai-chuen, BBS
Hon CHAN Hoi-yan

Member absent:

Hon Tanya CHAN

Public officers attending:

Ms Alice LAU Yim, JP	Permanent Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury (Treasury)
Mr Raistlin LAU Chun, JP	Deputy Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury (Treasury) 1
Mr Mike CHENG Wai-man	Principal Executive Officer (General), Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau (The Treasury Branch)
Dr Bernard CHAN Pak-li, JP	Under Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development
Mr Eric CHAN Sui-wai, JP	Deputy Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Commerce and Industry) 2
Ms Sabrina LAW Chung	Principal Assistant Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Single Window)
Ms Chrissie NG Sin-kwan	Chief Systems Manager (Single Window), Commerce and Economic Development Bureau
Mr Jimmy TAM Yat-keung, C.M.S.M.	Assistant Commissioner of Customs and Excise (Excise and Strategic Support)
Dr CHUI Tak-yi, JP	Under Secretary for Food and Health
Mr Gilford LAW Sun-on	Principal Assistant Secretary for Food and Health (Food)2
Miss Diane WONG Shuk-han	Deputy Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Environmental Hygiene)
Mr Eric TSAI Yu-sing	Assistant Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Grade Management and Development)
Mr Ricky WONG Chi-pan, JP	Deputy Head of Civil Engineering Office (Port and Land), Civil Engineering and Development

Mr CHOI Wing-hing	Department Chief Engineer (Land Works), Civil Engineering and Development Department
Mr Edward TSE Cheong-wo, JP	Project Director 3, Architectural Services Department
Mr Alex TSE Lok-man	Senior Project Manager 335, Architectural Services Department
Mr Sonny AU Chi-kwong, PDSM, PMSM, JP	Under Secretary for Security
Ms Anna LEUNG Wing-sum	Assistant Secretary for Security E1
Mr HO Wai-hong	Deputy Regional Commander Marine, Hong Kong Police Force
Mr YU Ka-lun	Chief Inspector of Police (Projects) (Marine Regional Headquarters), Hong Kong Police Force
Ir MAN Kwok-fung	Chief Telecommunications Engineer of Police (Communications Branch) (Information Systems Wing), Hong Kong Police Force
Mr Tommy TANG Chi-wah	Telecommunications Engineer of Police (Communications Branch)(Information Systems Wing), Hong Kong Police Force
Mr Owin FUNG Ho-yin	Deputy Director of Environmental Protection (3)
Mr Dave HO Tak-yin, JP	Assistant Director of Environmental Protection (Air Policy)
Dr Kenneth LEUNG Kai-ming	Principal Environmental Protection Officer (Air Science), Environmental Protection Department
Mr Alfred SIT Wing-hang, JP	Secretary for Innovation and Technology
Mr Davey CHUNG Pui-hong, JP	Deputy Secretary for Innovation and Technology (2)
Mr Victor LAM Wai-kiu, JP	Government Chief Information Officer
Mr Tony WONG Chi-kwong, JP	Deputy Government Chief Information Officer
Mr Jack CHAN Jick-chi, JP	Under Secretary for Home Affairs
Mr Paul CHENG Ching-wan	Principal Assistant Secretary for Home Affairs (Recreation and Sport)1

Dr CHUI Tak-yi, JP	Under Secretary for Food and Health
Mr Amor WONG Yiu-tuen	Principal Assistant Secretary for Food and Health (Food) 3
Mr Mickey LAI Kin-ming	Assistant Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation (Fisheries)
Dr CHOI Yuk-lin, JP	Under Secretary for Education
Mr Esmond LEE Chung-sin, JP	Deputy Secretary for Education (1)

Clerk in attendance:

Ms Anita SIT	Assistant Secretary General 1
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Staff in attendance:

Ms Angel SHEK	Chief Council Secretary (1)1
Ms Alice CHEUNG	Senior Legislative Assistant (1)1
Miss Queenie LAM	Senior Legislative Assistant (1)2
Mr Frankie WOO	Senior Legislative Assistant (1)3
Miss Mandy POON	Legislative Assistant (1)1
Ms Clara LO	Legislative Assistant (1)9
Ms Hayley CHEUNG	Legislative Assistant (1)10

Action The Chairman reminded members of the requirements under Rule 83A and Rule 84 of the Rules of Procedure.

Item 1 — FCR(2020-21)53
CAPITAL WORKS RESERVE FUND

HEAD 710 — COMPUTERISATION
Government Secretariat : Commerce and Economic Development Bureau
New Subhead "Implementation of Phase 2 of the Trade Single Window System"

Continuation of the discussion on FCR(2020-21)53

2. The Finance Committee ("FC") continued with the discussion on item FCR(2020-21)53.

3. The Chairman advised that the item sought FC's approval for a new commitment of \$133,770,000 for setting up the information technology ("IT") system required for the implementation of Phase 2 of the Trade Single Window ("TSW") System. Members noted that the Commerce and Economic Development Bureau had consulted the Panel on Commerce and Industry ("the Panel") on the relevant proposal on 17 December 2019. The Panel had spent about 49 minutes on the scrutiny of the proposal. FC had also spent one hour 20 minutes on discussion of this item at the last meeting.

Implementation plan of Phase 3 of Trade Single Window

4. Mr WU Chi-wai enquired about the exact timetable for rolling out Phase 3 and hence the full implementation of all three phases of TSW. He considered it important for the trade to be well informed of the implementation timetable of TSW.

5. Under Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development advised that the Government had set up consultation groups to gauge the views of various sectors with a view to developing future business workflow tailor made to meet their specific needs. Taking into consideration the trade's views, the Government would be conducting technical feasibility studies to map out the implementation plan for Phase 3 of TSW. The Office of TSW Operation would continue to publicize the benefits of TSW to the respective trades and encourage their take-up. Deputy Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Commerce and Industry) 2 said that as Phase 3 of TSW would cover a wide range of trade documents for both import and export and would involve more complex implementation issues, the Government would continue the engagement with the trade and report to the Legislative Council the details of the proposed implementation plan for Phase 3 of TSW in due course.

Voting on FCR(2020-21)53

6. At 9:09 am, the Chairman put item FCR(2020-21)53 to vote. At the request of members, the Chairman ordered a division. The Chairman declared that 19 members voted in favour of and 6 members voted against the item, and no member abstained from voting. The votes of individual members were as follows:

For:

Mr Tommy CHEUNG Yu-yan
Mr WONG Ting-kwong

Mr Jeffrey LAM Kin-fung
Mr CHAN Hak-kan

Mr Paul TSE Wai-chun	Mr Steven HO Chun-yin
Mr Frankie YICK Chi-ming	Mr MA Fung-kwok
Mr Charles Peter MOK	Mr LEUNG Che-cheung
Mr Christopher CHEUNG Wah-fung	Mr POON Siu-ping
Ir Dr LO Wai-kwok	Mr Jimmy NG Wing-ka
Mr Holden CHOW Ho-ding	Mr SHIU Ka-fai
Mr CHAN Chun-ying	Mr Vincent CHENG Wing-shun
Ms CHAN Hoi-yan	
(19 members)	

Against:

Mr WU Chi-wai	Mr CHAN Chi-chuen
Dr KWOK Ka-ki	Dr Fernando CHEUNG Chiu-hung
Mr CHU Hoi-dick	Mr SHIU Ka-chun
(6 members)	

7. The Chairman declared that the item was approved.

8. The Chairman referred to a request from five members of the Civic Party for cancelling today's FC meeting due to the circumstance that the family members of a member's staff working at the Legislative Council Complex had had close contact with an initially confirmed case of COVID-19. The Chairman said that the facilities of the Complex had been thoroughly cleaned and disinfected, and the Secretariat had not received notification from the Centre for Health Protection of any mandatory quarantine instruction in respect of Complex users. Moreover, there were over 20 items awaiting discussion and approval by FC. Taking into account the above considerations, he had decided that today's meeting should be held as scheduled.

Item 2 — FCR(2020-21)70
RECOMMENDATION OF THE PUBLIC WORKS
SUBCOMMITTEE MADE ON 13 NOVEMBER 2019

PWSC(2019-20)14

HEAD 703 — BUILDINGS

Environmental —Burial grounds, columbaria and crematoria

Hygiene

24NB — Provision of columbarium, Garden of Remembrance and related works at On Hing Lane, Shek Mun, Sha Tin

HEAD 705 — CIVIL ENGINEERING

Transport — Footbridges and pedestrian tunnels

193TB — Construction of subway in support of the provision of columbarium at On Hing Lane, Shek Mun, Sha Tin

9. At 9:16 am, the Chairman left the conference room, and the Deputy Chairman took the chair for the rest of the meeting. The Deputy Chairman declared that he was an advisor of the Bank of China (Hong Kong) Limited.

District-based columbarium policy

10. Mr CHU Hoi-dick stated that the Administration proposed that all districts in the territory would collectively share the responsibility of developing district-based columbarium facilities. Although he agreed with the policy direction, he considered that in fact the North District and Tuen Mun District accommodated far more columbarium facilities than other districts. Mr CHU suggested that the Administration consider transferring some niches in Sandy Ridge to other districts. Dr Fernando CHEUNG supported the district-based columbarium policy and agreed that each district should share the responsibility of providing the facilities concerned.

11. Under Secretary for Food and Health ("USFH") and Deputy Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Environmental Hygiene) ("DD/FEHD") reiterated that the Government all along adopted the district-based columbarium policy and the scale of each columbarium depended on planning considerations, ancillary infrastructure facilities, etc., and had to go through a district consultation process before being finalized. After considering factors such as characteristics and constraints of different districts, and public acceptance of the facilities, the Government currently planned to provide a total of around 900 000 niches in different districts.

Gardens of Remembrance

12. Mr CHU Hoi-dick was of the view that, as there were leisure facilities like parks in each district, the Administration could consider setting aside space in suitable parks for Gardens of Remembrance ("GoRs") where plaques of the deceased would be mounted, while facilities for scattering cremains might not be provided in such GoRs. Therefore, spaces in columbaria originally used as GoRs could be converted for provision of additional niches. Mr CHAN Chi-chuen agreed with Mr CHU Hoi-dick's suggestion. DD/FEHD stated that the Government

had contemplated the establishment of GoRs detached from columbaria, and would continue to study in this direction.

13. Mr CHU Hoi-dick compared the utilization rates of commemorative plaques in different GoRs and pointed out that the utilization rates of commemorative plaques in certain venues (e.g. GoRs located in Diamond Hill and Kwai Chung) were higher. He enquired about the factors behind the higher popularity of these places and how the Administration could take these factors into account to improve the utilization rates of other places.

14. DD/FEHD explained that GoRs managed by the department currently provided nearly 40 000 commemorative plaque spaces, of which more than 29 700 were in use. The higher utilization rates of commemorative plaques in some venues were probably attributable to reasons that these places were located in or near urban areas, conveniently accessible by public transport and the columbaria in which these commemorative plaques locate were commissioned for years, etc. For example, due to traffic constraints, utilization rates of commemorative plaques in GoRs on outlying islands were naturally not as high as that of venues in urban areas.

15. Mr WU Chi-wai enquired about the number of commemorative plaques which could be placed in the GoR in Shek Mun columbarium and whether there was room for expansion to accommodate more commemorative plaques. He stated that convenient transportation facilities were necessary for GoRs. Mr WU said that green burial had become a trend, and it was expected that public demand for GoRs would increase. He enquired about the Administration's measures in response.

16. DD/FEHD stated that Shek Mun columbarium was located near Shek Mun MTR Station and it took around 10 to 15 minutes for the public to reach the columbarium from the Shek Mun Station on foot via the proposed subway. The GoR in the venue would have memorial walls, on which around 2 000 plaques could be mounted. The Administration would monitor the utilization of plaques and was open about examining on increasing the number of memorial walls with district representatives. DD/FEHD added that green burial was an important policy of the Government. Apart from providing facilities such as GoRs and commemorative plaques, the Government had also put forward several services such as scattering of cremated ashes at sea to encourage the use of green burial services.

17. Mr CHU Hoi-dick enquired about the utilization of electronic screens in GoRs. He questioned whether mourning the deceased by

displaying plaques on electronic screens was acceptable to the public. DD/FEHD explained that apart from providing E-memorial facilities at new columbaria, the Government also provided four electronic screens at existing pilot columbarium facilities. Furthermore, the public could also pay tribute to the deceased on the Internet Memorial Service ("IMS") website. As at the end of May 2020, the number of new memorial webpages on the IMS website reached 1 729 and the total view count reached 300 000. It was expected that the utilization in 2020 would be higher than the 1 612 new webpages and 445 000 view count for the whole of 2019.

18. Mr LEUNG Yiu-chung was of the view that GoRs in columbaria were small in general and were rather crowded when holding a large number of visitors. He enquired whether the GoR in the proposed Shek Mun columbarium would be more spacious, allowing more people to conduct ancestral worship at the same time. DD/FEHD stated that the GoR in Shek Mun columbarium covered an area of around 2 300 m², including 1 200 m² of grassed area for scattering of ashes, and a capacity of around 2 000 commemorative plaques. DD/FEHD added that the Sha Tin District Council noted the number of commemorative plaques in the GoR in Shek Mun columbarium.

19. Mr CHAN Chi-chuen enquired whether there was a standard size of each commemorative plaque and how much information could be displayed on each plaque. He also enquired whether memorial walls for mounting commemorative plaques for the deceased would have roof covers and whether facilities for ancestral worship (e.g. incense burning, presentation of flowers or placing offerings) would be provided before the electronic screens.

20. DD/FEHD stated that the standard size of each commemorative plaque was 55 x 150 mm, displaying information such as the name, photo and dates of birth and death of the deceased. The Government had provided Members with relevant written information before. Facilities in GoRs varied between venues. Shek Mun columbarium was a smoke-free facility, and no incense-burning features would be provided.

Supply and demand, planning and waiting time of columbarium facilities

21. Dr KWOK Ka-ki had no objection to the proposed funding item. Pointing out that the number of deaths as predicted by the Administration would increase to 73 900 in 2038, Dr KWOK enquired, in view of the current trend in the supply of niches, how long would applicants have to wait before being allocated public niches. Dr Helena WONG raised the

same question.

22. DD/FEHD stated that the Government would strive to introduce new public niches to meet the needs of society. Newly-provided niches would be allocated by ballot. In 2019, the Administration provided 21 235 niches, with 811 remaining niches available at present for selection. The Administration provided 44 950 niches in 2020. Based on the number of applications received before the deadline, this year's supply could fully meet the public demand. The Government would continue to provide niches for public application next year.

23. Dr KWOK Ka-ki enquired whether the Administration had any plans to develop columbarium facilities on outlying islands. DD/FEHD responded that the Government had explored the relevant suggestion. However, due to unresolved issues concerning arrangements for transport facilities, etc., no suitable islands had been identified for further study at the moment.

24. Dr Fernando CHEUNG said that, according to the information provided by the Administration, the number of deaths in Hong Kong was about 50 000 per year, and in 2038, the number of deaths was estimated to reach 73 900. The proposed Shek Mun columbarium facilities could only provide around 40 000 niches, inadequate for the demand in one year. Dr CHEUNG questioned how the Administration could meet the public demand.

25. In response, DD/FEHD advised that the Government would continue to adopt a three-pronged strategy to provide burial services, including providing public columbarium facilities, regulating private columbarium facilities, and promoting green burial services, in order to cater to public demand. In terms of public niches, the Government would continue to promote different district-based projects, and all districts in the territory would collectively shoulder the burden of providing columbarium facilities. Private columbaria were subject to licensing control, and the permitted number of niches provided by operators would depend on factors such as scale and outcome of licence application. Since the launch of green burial services, the utilization rate kept increasing. The Government also established the Green Burial Central Register to encourage the public to plan in advance their after-death arrangements by registering their wish for green burial and making it known to their families.

26. Dr Helena WONG stated that the Democratic Party supported the provision of additional public niches and the establishment of GoRs, but

was worried about insufficient supply. Dr WONG enquired about the supply of public and private niches from the present to the commissioning of Shek Mun columbarium in 2024. DD/FEHD stressed that new public niches would be allocated by ballot. Take 2020 as an example, the Government added a total of 44 950 niches. As at the deadline for application, the number of applications received was lower than the total supply, indicating that this year's supply could fulfill the actual demand. Furthermore, with the commissioning of new columbarium projects in Tsang Tsui, Wo Hop Shek, Cape Collinson and Mui Wo one by one, around 160 000, 44 000, 25 000 and 790 new public niches would be provided respectively for applications by members of the public in need.

27. Dr Helena WONG raised a follow-up question and stated that when assessing the supply and demand of niches, in addition to the number of applications in a certain year, the Administration also had to consider the number of people on the waiting list. Dr WONG enquired whether the Administration had set an indicator for reasonable waiting time in order to assess whether the facilities and services provided by the Administration could meet public demand. She was of the view that it was necessary for the Administration to set an indicator for supply, demand and waiting time, otherwise it would be difficult to plan for future supply. Dr WONG also requested the Administration to discuss with relevant District Councils the implementation plans for other columbaria.

28. DD/FEHD stated that all members of the public in need (including those who had previously applied for but had not been allocated niches) could apply for new public niches provided by the Government. In terms of the new public niches in 2020, the total number of applications received by the Government was actually lower than the supply. The Administration would continue to provide new public niches for application by members of the public in need. The waiting time mentioned by Member should be the time needed to wait for the allocation of reused niches. The Government already ceased accepting relevant applications from 26 April 2019 onwards. These applicants could choose to apply for new public niches allocated by ballot. The Government would continue to carry out such work as district consultations on different public columbarium development projects.

29. Mr LEUNG Yiu-chung stated that the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department ("FEHD") currently provided temporary storage facilities for cremains, while some members of the public stored the ashes of the deceased in private funeral parlours, reflecting the shortage in temporary storage facilities for cremains. DD/FEHD responded that FEHD's existing and upcoming temporary storage facilities for cremains

could provide more than 64 000 temporary storage spaces, which were sufficient for meeting demand. The Government was planning to provide more temporary storage facilities for cremains, but the specific timetable was yet to be finalized.

30. Mr SHIU Ka-chun said the public often had to wait one to four years before they could be allocated public niches for storing the cremains of the deceased. He enquired whether zero waiting time could be achieved if the development of the proposed Shek Mun columbarium gained funding approval. DD/FEHD reiterated that new public niches were allocated by ballot. The waiting situation mentioned by Member should be about reused niches. Application concerning the relevant arrangement was closed in April 2019. The Government provided 21 235 new niches last year, and another 44 950 this year. Members of the public who were not allocated new niches for the deceased by the ballot could continue to apply. The total number of applications received by the Government this year was lower than the supply of niches, so the provision of niches was sufficient to meet the demand, and the Government would continue to add new niches for application next year.

Green burial services

31. Dr KWOK Ka-ki was of the view that the Administration was sluggish in promoting green burial services. He enquired about the Administration's solutions in this respect. Mr SHIU Ka-chun enquired whether the Government's promotion of green burial could achieve any diversion effect, so as to reduce the society's demand for public niches. DD/FEHD stated that the number of the public using green burial services continued to rise. In terms of the number of deaths in 2007, the proportion of cases using green burial was 0.87%, while in 2019 the cases using green burial services already accounted for 16.2% of annual deaths. In the first half of 2020 alone, the proportion already reached 14.5%. DD/FEHD stated that for the whole year of 2020, the number of cases using green burial services was expected to maintain an upward trend. To promote green burial services, the Administration established a central register to encourage the public to register for green burial services. It would also continue to enhance promotion and publicity, including promoting to stakeholders through government departments and non-government organizations, and strengthen publicity through different channels.

Facilities for keeping abortuses and/or scattering the cremated ashes of abortuses

32. Mr CHAN Chi-chuen requested the Administration to provide data on facilities for keeping abortuses and/or scattering the cremated ashes of abortuses ("abortuses facilities"). Mr CHAN said that the utilization rate of facilities for keeping abortuses was only around 40% at present. He questioned whether the low utilization rate was due to low public demand for abortuses handling services, inadequate promotion by the Administration, complicated application procedures or the Administration's apathy in providing relevant information to those in need.

33. USFH responded that there was a real demand for abortuses handling services. Keeping facilities provided by the Government were to cater for longer-term demand, and there was no plan to fully utilize the facilities once they were introduced. The Government would continue with its efforts to strengthen publicity and the promotion of abortuses handling facilities and services. DD/FEHD added that private cemeteries and FEHD-managed cemeteries had already offered facilities for keeping abortuses at present. The Government also planned to develop more similar facilities. In the proposed Shek Mun columbarium, the Government had already reserved around 200 m² of area for approximately 300 abortuses keeping spaces or for scattering the cremated ashes of abortuses. DD/FEHD also said that parents of abortuses generally could obtain from hospitals appropriate information on services for abortuses, while application procedures for relevant facilities and services were simple.

34. Dr Fernando CHEUNG asked a question about the number of facilities for abortuses. He stated that according to the figures provided by the Administration, there were more than 300 applications for keeping abortuses as at the end of May this year. Dr CHEUNG enquired whether the "Garden of Forever Love" managed by FEHD could meet the demand.

35. Mr SHIU Ka-chun expressed support for the proposed project. He stated that some members of the public relayed that staff of the Hospital Authority ("HA") were relatively passive in the provision of information on relevant facilities and services for keeping abortuses. Family members of abortuses usually had to search for information and go through procedures by themselves, and it often took more than two months for them to bury the abortuses in the "Garden of Forever Love" managed by FEHD. The Administration did state that it would follow up the relevant arrangements, yet there had been no progress at all. Mr SHIU enquired about the specific measures of the Administration and whether the problem could be

solved before the completion of Shek Mun columbarium.

36. USFH stated that the bureau would follow up with HA and request healthcare personnel to be more proactive in providing family members of abortuses with information on abortuses handling services, as well as offering appropriate assistance. USFH added that the Government would examine with HA on further simplifying the application procedures. In fact, at present, after family members obtained documents of abortuses from relevant hospitals or private doctors and filled out application forms, generally it would take merely three working days to obtain FEHD's approval for keeping abortuses in FEHD facilities.

37. Mr SHIU Ka-chun said that the Administration stipulated that starting from 26 April 2019, the deposit period of ashes in columbaria was 20 years, after which the interment had to be extended for 10 years recurrently, with unlimited number of extension. Mr SHIU enquired whether the keeping of cremated ashes of abortuses would be handled under the same regulation. DD/FEHD stated that the extension arrangement was not applicable to facilities for keeping abortuses.

38. Prof Joseph LEE supported the funding proposal. He was of the view that the Administration provided facilities for handling abortuses in order to respond to the people's aspirations. Despite the small number of facilities concerned, half a loaf is better than none. Prof LEE enquired whether the Administration would undertake to increase the supply of facilities and services for handling abortuses and add relevant facilities in different districts. If so, he asked whether the Administration had set development goals and how many facilities for handling abortuses would be added in the coming three years. USFH stated that there were four existing and planned government sites for keeping abortuses. If necessary, the Government would consider increasing the number of relevant facilities.

39. DD/FEHD added that currently the Government and private cemeteries provided a total of around 1 163 keeping spaces for abortuses. Along with facilities in private cemeteries approved but not commissioned yet, the total number of keeping spaces for abortuses would exceed around 1 370, and this figure had not even included the planned total of around 1 000 new keeping spaces in Cape Collinson and the proposed Shek Mun and Sandy Ridge columbaria projects. DD/FEHD stated that the utilization rate of existing facilities was nearly 30%. After the commissioning in 2021 of cremation facilities for abortuses added to the Kwai Chung columbarium, FEHD could provide abortuses keeping and ashes scattering services at the venue and other future venues at the same

time.

Transport problems about the ingress and egress point of Shek Mun columbarium

40. Mr Holden CHOW agreed that there was a need to establish the Shek Mun columbarium, but was concerned about the transport problems resulting from the operation of the facility concerned. He said that the proposed Shek Mun columbarium only provided an ingress and egress point at the On Hing Lane roundabout. Considering the large number of visitors which might appear during grave sweeping periods, Mr CHOW enquired whether the Administration would open other ingress and egress points to divert visitor flows.

41. DD/FEHD stated that the public could reach Shek Mun columbarium through the entrance at On Hing Lane on normal days and the proposed subway during grave sweeping seasons. With eight metres internal width, as well as footpaths and holding areas at both ends, the subway could deal with visitor flows that might appear during peak grave sweeping periods.

Arrangements for adding new sets of ashes to niches

42. Mr WU Chi-wai stated that public columbaria provided standard niches and large niches currently. More than two sets of ashes could be placed in each standard niche, while each large niche could hold more than four sets of ashes. The proposed Shek Mun columbarium would provide around 40 000 niches. Mr WU enquired whether the 40 000 niches would be standard niches or large niches. Mr WU was of the view that the Administration should provide more large niches to optimize the use of niches by allowing several sets of ashes to be placed in each niche. Dr Fernando CHEUNG enquired whether the Administration would allow more family members to share niches so as to free up more niches for public use.

43. DD/FEHD responded that Shek Mun columbarium planned to provide 40 000 niches, of which the vast majority (99%) were standard niches and 400 were large niches (1%). She added that the Government relaxed the definition of "close relative" in January 2014, allowing more than two sets of ashes to be placed in each standard niche, and four sets of ashes in each large niche. There was no upper limit on the number of ashes to be placed in the two types of niches.

The scale of Shek Mun columbarium

44. Mr WU Chi-wai said that the proposed Shek Mun columbarium would only have a three-storey columbarium block with a rooftop, querying whether the Administration had optimized the utilization of land resources. Mr LEUNG Yiu-chung raised the same question.

45. DD/FEHD explained that the Government determined the current scale of Shek Mun columbarium after the discussion with the Sha Tin District Council, that is, proposing the construction of a three-storey columbarium block with a rooftop providing around 40 000 niches. The relevant design had taken into account the presence of schools nearby and the acceptability on views among residents of Shek Mun Estate.

46. Regarding the long-term planning of Shek Mun columbarium, Mr WU Chi-wai enquired whether the Administration would retain flexibility in the design of Shek Mun columbarium, making it possible to increase the number of niches by relatively more static methods in the future, so as to avoid large-scale construction which would disrupt the serenity of the environment there. Mr WU also asked whether the Administration would use the rooftop of the columbarium block to increase the number of commemorative plaques.

47. DD/FEHD reiterated that the Government determined the current scale of the Shek Mun columbarium project after the discussion with the Sha Tin District Council. The relevant traffic impact assessment and consultations with residents were also conducted on the premise that around 40 000 niches would be provided in the columbarium. If niches and commemorative plaques were to be added in the proposed Shek Mun columbarium, traffic impact assessment had to be conducted afresh, while taking into account the views of nearby residents and schools. The Government was open about whether to expand the Shek Mun columbarium in situ or on a nearby location, or identify other places in Sha Tin for constructing new columbaria in future.

Estimated cost, facilities and management issues of Shek Mun columbarium

48. Mr WU Chi-wai said that the number of plaques that could be placed in the GoR in Shek Mun was fewer than expected, and the average cost of each plaque was much higher than that of each niche. Mr WU enquired about the reasons for the high cost of commemorative plaques. DD/FEHD explained that the number of commemorative plaques that could be placed in Shek Mun columbarium was determined after consulting the

local District Council and taking into account the visitor flows that would be brought by that number of plaques. Project Director (3), Architectural Services Department added that the estimated cost of the external works of Shek Mun columbarium was over \$160 million, which included the external works for the whole project. Apart from construction works such as GoR and landscape works, it also covered the improvement works of the On Hing Lane roundabout and the cost of floor screeding and greening of the entire project; the cost of GoR only formed a small part of the cost of the project as a whole.

49. Regarding the proposed subway, Mr WU Chi-wai enquired whether facilities such as steps or lifts would be provided. DD/FEHD stated that the level of both ends of the proposed subway connecting On Muk Street and the columbarium site was similar to that of the pedestrian pavement, and facilities such as steps or lifts would not be required.

50. As for the means to increase the number of niches in Shek Mun columbarium, DD/FEHD stated that different options were available for consideration, but it was too early at this stage to say whether expansion would take place. Besides, greening facilities on the rooftop of the columbarium block should be kept, so as to blend with the nearby natural environment, making the overall landscape of the columbarium more acceptable to the community.

51. Mr WU Chi-wai requested the Administration to provide supplementary information on the breakdown of the cost of the relevant works.

[Post-meeting note: The supplementary information provided by the Administration was circulated to members vide LC Paper No. FC289/19-20(01) on 25 September 2020.]

Tuen Mun Tsang Tsui columbarium project

52. Mr Holden CHOW said that, regarding the columbarium project in Tsang Tsui, Tuen Mun, the Administration undertook to extend Lung Kwu Tan Road to connect Sheung Pak Nai and Ha Pak Nai, but no action had been taken up to now. He enquired about the progress of the relevant works.

53. In response, DD/FEHD explained that, early on, the Government and Tuen Mun District Council discussed various infrastructure projects in the district apart from the Tsang Tsui columbarium, which included other suggested projects such as landfill facilities of the Environmental

Protection Department, and a number of government bureaux and departments were involved. Subsequently, Members also followed up with relevant government bureaux and departments on the Lung Kwu Tan reclamation project.

Voting on FCR(2020-21)70

54. At 10:42 am, the Deputy Chairman put item FCR(2020-21)70 to vote. At the request of members, the Deputy Chairman ordered a division. The Deputy Chairman declared that 33 members voted in favour of and no members voted against the item or abstained from voting. The votes of individual members were as follows:

For:

- | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Mr James TO Kun-sun | Mr Tommy CHEUNG Yu-yan |
| Prof Joseph LEE Kok-long | Mr WONG Kwok-kin |
| Mrs Regina IP LAU Suk-ye | Mr Paul TSE Wai-chun |
| Ms Claudia MO | Mr Michael TIEN Puk-sun |
| Mr Frankie YICK Chi-ming | Mr WU Chi-wai |
| Mr Charles Peter MOK | Mr CHAN Chi-chuen |
| Mr LEUNG Che-cheung | Ms Alice MAK Mei-kuen |
| Mr KWOK Wai-keung | Mr Christopher CHEUNG Wah-fung |
| Dr Fernando CHEUNG Chiu-hung | Dr Helena WONG Pik-wan |
| Mr Martin LIAO Cheung-kong | Mr POON Siu-ping |
| Ir Dr LO Wai-kwok | Mr Alvin YEUNG |
| Mr CHU Hoi-dick | Mr Jimmy NG Wing-ka |
| Dr Junius HO Kwan-yiu | Mr LAM Cheuk-ting |
| Mr SHIU Ka-chun | Dr Pierre CHAN |
| Mr LUK Chung-hung | Mr LAU Kwok-fan |
| Dr CHENG Chung-tai | Mr KWONG Chun-yu |
| Mr Jeremy TAM Man-ho | |
| (33members) | |

55. The Deputy Chairman declared that the item was approved.

56. The meeting was suspended at 10:47 am and resumed at 10:57 am.

**Item 3 — FCR(2020-21)54
CAPITAL WORKS RESERVE FUND**

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

Hong Kong Police Force

New Subhead "Replacement of Marine Police Central Command System and its Electro-Optical Sensors as well as the Procurement of New Sensors"

57. The Deputy Chairman advised that item FCR(2020-21)54 invited FC to approve a new commitment of \$54,229,000 for the replacement of the Marine Police Central Command System and its seven Electro-Optical Sensors ("EOSs") as well as the procurement of two new EOSs. The Security Bureau consulted the Panel on Security on the proposal on 5 March 2019. The Panel had spent about 18 minutes on the discussion of the proposal.

Operation of the Electro-Optical Sensor system

58. Mr CHAN Chi-chuen enquired about the operation of the Marine Police before the commissioning of EOSs in 2010, the operation of the existing EOSs, as well as the differences between the proposed EOSs and the existing EOSs.

59. Under Secretary for Security ("US for S") advised that prior to the commissioning of EOSs in 2010, the Marine Police mainly deployed radar-equipped police launches to conduct law enforcement operations and detect if there were any suspicious vessels or illegal smuggling activities within the waters of Hong Kong. The work on this front required a number of police launches and considerable manpower be deployed to perform duties at different spots within the waters of Hong Kong. Following its review on the Versatile Maritime Police Response Strategy in 2010, the Marine Police introduced the Central Command System ("CCS"), which came along with the installation of EOSs at seven locations. Since the installation of EOSs, the Marine Police managed to enhance work efficiency by downsizing the patrol fleet by about 26 craft and reducing the establishment by more than 170 staff. Given the increasing fatigue problems experienced by the EOSs in recent years, the Administration now proposed the replacement of the seven existing EOSs and the installation of two additional EOSs. US for S further pointed out that the actual expenditure incurred on the installation of CCS and its seven sensors amounted to \$85 million. Due to the advancement of technology, the total cost for system updates and installation of additional sensors currently stood at over \$54 million only, representing a decline of 36%. The EOSs to be acquired were technologically comparable to those currently in use. With regard to the overall system operation, Deputy Regional Commander Marine, Hong Kong Police Force ("DRC(M), HKPF") supplemented that when operators at the Marine Regional Command and Control Centre

("RCCC MAR") identified through the radar system suspicious targets entering or leaving Hong Kong waters, they would make use of EOSs to monitor the situations at scene. Police launches would be deployed to conduct on-the-spot investigation in case suspicious circumstances were detected.

Additional Electro-Optical Sensors at Tsim Bei Tsui and Fan Lau

60. Ms Claudia MO enquired about the Administration's justifications for its plan of installing a new EOS at Tsim Bei Tsui in Yuen Long and another one at Fan Lau on the south-western tip of Lantau Island. In view of the rampant illegal fishing activities in the surrounding waters of Deep Bay, she also asked whether the Police would deploy more police launches to step up patrol and combat such activities.

61. US for S advised that the funding provisions sought would cover the replacement of seven existing EOSs, the installation of new EOSs at the two aforesaid sites, and the work of reconnecting an EOS installed at the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge Hong Kong Link Road to the new CCS. The overall detection range of EOSs could then cover the eastern, southern and western waters of Hong Kong, which in turn facilitated the Police's effective crackdown on unlawful acts such as illegal immigration and smuggling. As far as illegal fishing was concerned, the Marine Police could free up more police launches to step up enforcement actions in the surrounding waters of Deep Bay after the two aforesaid EOSs were installed to assist in monitoring the waters concerned.

Impacts of the United States sanctions on the procurement of equipment

62. Given that Donald TRUMP, President of the United States ("US"), announced his signing into law the "Hong Kong Autonomy Act" and issued the President's executive order on 14 July 2020, which formalized a series of measures including the cancellation of licence exemptions granted to the export of sensitive dual-use technologies to Hong Kong, a number of members were concerned as to whether the proposed EOS devices would be affected by the US export controls and sanctions imposed by the said policy, thus rendering the Administration impossible to acquire the necessary equipment. Dr CHENG Chung-tai enquired whether the proposed EOS devices contained US technologies and whether the Administration had assessed the impacts of US sanctions on the supply of the relevant equipment. Dr CHENG and Mr Jeremy TAM enquired whether the Administration had drawn up a contingency plan in response to the US sanctions; if so, of the details.

63. US for S advised that the existing EOSs did not contain parts made in the US or technologies originated from the US. Chief Telecommunications Engineer of Police (Communications Branch) (Information Systems Wing), Hong Kong Police Force ("CTE(CB)/HKPF") supplemented that the existing EOSs were manufactured in Spain.

64. On the equipment supply, Mr Andrew WAN was worried that EOS devices or computer chips embedded in the central servers of CCS might be restricted for export to Hong Kong due to US technologies involved therein. He queried the Administration's failure to conduct adequate research and assessment on US export controls on goods and technologies to Hong Kong. Mr WAN advised the Administration not to take the matter lightly. To allay members' concerns, he requested the Administration to provide the relevant information and make guarantees to members in this regard.

65. Addressing the aforesaid concerns raised by members regarding US sanctions, US for S advised that the relevant installations and equipment were not new technologies. The Administration had gathered market information on the supply of installations and equipment to be procured. Given that none of the parts of the existing system were supplied by the US, the Hong Kong Police Force ("HKPF") was not worried that the acquisition of the relevant equipment would be affected by the US sanction measures. The Administration would launch a global open tender after obtaining FC's funding approval and it was confident about suppliers' capabilities in the provision of the necessary products. He believed that the relevant products were also available for supply in markets (including those in Asia and Mainland China) outside the US. As for the technological level of the relevant Mainland products, CTE(CB)/HKPF advised that Mainland-built fighters were also equipped with EOSs and that the specifications for Mainland-made computer chips installed therein were far more superior than those for chips embedded in the proposed EOSs.

66. Dr Fernando CHEUNG said that he learnt from information collected through searches on the Internet that the proposed EOSs could be used for military surveillance, and thus the technologies or hardware contained therein might involve US patented technologies. He enquired to what extent the Administration was certain that the products to be acquired did not involve any sensitive US technology and would not be subject to export controls and sanctions imposed by the aforesaid US President's executive order.

67. Dr KWOK Ka-ki gave, to the best of his knowledge, a name list of the world's leading EOS suppliers including BAE Systems, Lockheed Martin, Raytheon, Thales, CONTROP, General Dynamics, Harris, Israel Aerospace, etc. He pointed out that none of the suppliers from Asia or Mainland China were included in the list. Meanwhile, Huawei, a renowned Mainland telecommunications equipment supplier, had already been subject to US sanctions.

68. CTE(CB)/HKPF advised that the proposed EOS devices were not used for military purposes and the technologies applied or involved therein did not meet the national defense level. The equipment produced by the list of suppliers mentioned by Dr KWOK was mostly used for national defense purposes.

69. Even if the proposed EOS devices were used for civil instead of military purposes, Mr Jeremy TAM and Mr Alvin YEUNG enquired whether the Administration had considered that so long as the technologies applied or computer chips embedded therein were originated from the US, such equipment would be subject to US sanctions and the Administration could by no means acquire the necessary equipment and probably could not perform software updates for these EOSs in the future due to the sanctions.

70. Regarding the updating or upgrading of system hardware and software, CTE(CB)/HKPF advised that EOSs currently in use had not undergone any upgrade since its commissioning in 2010. Since then, the Police regularly carried out maintenance works for the system hardware and software and no difficulties had been encountered so far.

71. In the event that the proposed EOS devices were acquired from Huawei or control and monitoring equipment suppliers based in Mainland China, Dr KWOK Ka-ki was concerned that the after-sale services such as maintenance for the proposed EOSs would be discontinued in the future since these companies had been or would be boycotted by the US. Dr KWOK sought clarification from the Administration in this regard.

72. US for S advised that the Government had not yet selected a supplier for the provision of the proposed EOS devices for the time being.

73. At the request of Mr Andrew WAN, the Administration would provide, after the meeting, the following supplementary information: among the goods to be provided by Hong Kong, Mainland and overseas suppliers in relation to the CCS, EOSs and the relevant equipment (including the hardware and software of the equipment stated in paragraph 3 of the discussion paper) to be acquired by HKPF, those products and

parts (i) which were produced in the US and (ii) whose technologies involved those developed by the US and the patents or copyrights of such technologies were held by the US.

[*Post-meeting note:* The Administration's written response was issued to members vide LC Paper No. FC254/19-20(01) (the Chinese and English versions were issued on 21 July and 24 July 2020 respectively.)]

Compatibility problems of computer operating systems

74. Mr WU Chi-wai enquired whether there was a need for the Administration to redesign for the proposed EOSs a software package running on Linux operating system platform as a means to circumvent the US sanctions; and in doing so, whether EOS software would be rendered incompatible or unable to interface with other government systems currently widely running on Windows operating system; and whether it had anticipated such scenario and thus incorporated the requirements for the relevant operating systems into the tender documents.

75. CTE(CB)/HKPF advised that the supplier would need to redevelop a new CCS regardless of whether the proposed EOSs would adopt Linux or Windows operating system. He added that the CCS was a closed system without connectivity to other systems.

Expenditure incurred by the Electro-Optical Sensors

76. Mr KWONG Chun-yu noted that the total non-recurrent expenditure for the installation of the new CCS and nine EOSs was estimated to be \$54,229,000. Mr KWONG enquired the reasons for the high costs involved. While pointing out that EOS devices were not high-tech equipment, Dr KWOK Ka-ki asked why each device cost as much as \$2 million on average.

77. In reply, CTE(CB)/HKPF advised that as explained in paragraph 12 of the discussion paper, the expenditure for the acquisition of EOS hardware and software would be around \$20 million (i.e. around \$2 million for each sensor on average), which was comparatively lower than the average cost for sensor installation in 2010 (i.e. over \$3 million each). US for S further explained that each EOS comprised three components, namely, a thermal imager ("TI"), a long range daylight camera, and a pan-tilt platform for controlling the stability of the EOSs on windy days. The average prices for the three components were \$1.29 million, over \$500,000 and over \$800,000 respectively in 2009, whereas the prevailing

prices for these components had dropped to over \$900,000, several tens of thousands dollars, and \$450,000 respectively.

Maintenance cost

78. Addressing Mr KWONG Chun-yu's enquiry on details of the recurrent expenditure, CTE(CB)/HKPF advised that the expenditure incurred in relation to the hardware and software maintenance, communications network services and spectrum licence fee for the proposed CCS would increase to \$7,829,000 in a full year from 2024-2025 onwards, representing a saving of about \$2,930,000 from that of the existing system which was about \$10,760,000.

79. Dr Fernando CHEUNG enquired why the proposed CCS did not incur any recurrent expenditure on hardware and software maintenance in 2022-2023, and yet such expenditure would increase to over \$3 million and over \$6 million in 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 respectively. Mr Kenneth LEUNG enquired about the annual recurrent expenditure involved in maintaining the existing system.

80. CTE(CB)/HKPF advised that the new system was expected to be commissioned in October 2022 and it would not incur any maintenance cost during the one-year warranty period in 2022-2023. However, a maintenance cost of over \$3 million would be incurred in 2023-2024. As for the over \$6 million maintenance cost to be incurred starting from 2024-2025, such amount would cover the maintenance cost for 12 months. US for S advised that the annual recurrent expenditure for the proposed CCS would be around over \$7.8 million, which was 27% lower than that of the existing system, i.e. \$10.7 million.

Handling of data

81. Mr SHIU Ka-chun enquired whether image data collected by the proposed EOS system would be shared with counter-terrorism ("CT") operations under the system for safeguarding national security. Dr KWOK Ka-ki was concerned that the CT work claimed by the Police was actually a cover-up for their enforcement of the Law of the People's Republic of China on Safeguarding National Security in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region implemented by China in Hong Kong recently. Dr KWOK asked whether personal data collected by EOSs would be transmitted to the law enforcement units in Mainland China.

82. US for S advised that all image data collected by EOSs would be kept and handled by the Marine Region according to the existing

mechanism. In gist, unless it was necessary to submit the image data to the court as evidence of smuggling cases, image data stored in the system would be automatically destroyed after 90 days.

The quality of law enforcement officers

83. Mr LAM Cheuk-ting said that the effectiveness of EOSs depended on the response and assessment of the RCCC MAR duty officers towards the messages received. Hence, the quality of the law enforcement officers of the Police was of utmost importance. He considered that in the incident on the night of 21 July 2019, many members of the public were beaten up by rioters in Yuen Long West Rail Station, and yet some police officers turned a blind eye to such crimes without taking any action. Therefore he had lost confidence in the quality of police officers. He enquired how the Administration could guarantee that police officers responsible for operating and monitoring the proposed EOSs in RCCC MAR would possess the required quality so that the above negligence and inaction would not happen again.

84. US for S advised that the Government was supported by multiple signalling systems in its law enforcement work conducted in Hong Kong waters. The automatic sensor system in an EOS could locate suspicious vessels or targets and track them, and display the signals on the console at the RCCC MAR to facilitate follow-up by the Police where appropriate. In addition, international maritime laws stipulated that vessels navigating at sea must install an automatic identification system to enable the digital radars of the Marine Department to identify and detect them.

Manpower effectiveness

85. Mr Andrew WAN noted from the Administration that in the past, locations not covered by CCS often required monitoring by police craft deployed there. Upon the installation of EOSs at these places, manpower effectiveness could be achieved. Mr WAN pointed out that after two additional EOSs had been installed respectively at Tsim Bei Tsui in Yuen Long and at Fan Lau on the south-western tip of Lantau Island, the number of EOSs would increase from seven at present to nine. He enquired whether the relevant manpower of the Police would be reduced accordingly.

86. US for S advised that police manpower would not be reduced as the manpower released from installing the above two additional EOSs would be deployed to step up marine patrolling and anti-smuggling work.

Technical specifications and tender requirements

87. Dr KWOK Ka-ki felt astonished that the potential EOS equipment suppliers preferred by the Administration were not among the top ten suppliers who based their businesses mainly in Europe and the US. Dr KWOK enquired about the technical requirements and standards of the proposed EOSs. He was concerned that the Administration might settle for less and use technically substandard equipment due to the impact of sanctions.

88. CTE(CB)/HKPF used infra-red body temperature scanners commonly seen in people's daily living as an example to illustrate that the technical specifications of the proposed EOSs were intended for civil use. They were very far from those military grade specifications.

89. Mr Kenneth LEUNG considered that it was of paramount importance that the equipment to be procured met the technical requirements. He reminded the Administration not to go for low prices and select substandard devices. Moreover, the price level should not be the only criterion for assessing suppliers. Mr LEUNG pointed out that it was a common tactic of suppliers to submit a low bid and then increase the future maintenance fees significantly after they had been awarded a contract. He asked whether the Administration had set down in the tender documents requirements in respect of the relevant experience, reputation and financial capacity of suppliers.

90. US for S advised that tender submissions received would be sent to the Government Central Tender Board ("GCTB") for consideration. CTE(CB)/HKPF said that the Police would stipulate in the tender product specifications and technical requirements. GCTB would evaluate the tender submissions received in accordance with the established marking scheme.

91. Some members were concerned that export restrictions imposed by the US might affect the procurement of the proposed EOSs. In this regard, Dr CHIANG Lai-wan suggested that the Administration set down in the tender documents terms to require the successful supplier to guarantee that its products complied with the export requirements of their place of manufacture.

Counter-terrorism work of the Marine Police

92. Mr SHIU Ka-chun noted from paragraph 5 of the discussion paper that the CCS of the Marine Police played an instrumental role in effectively

safeguarding the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region sea boundary against illegal activities, such as illegal immigration and smuggling, as well as establishing a potent defence system against the threats of maritime terrorism. In this regard, Mr SHIU enquired whether the Police was required to notify the Mainland departments responsible for national security about the CT work conducted by the Police within Hong Kong waters, or whether CT work was jointly conducted by both parties. Mr Andrew WAN asked whether the Police had recently escalated the terrorist threat level of Hong Kong waters.

93. US for S advised that tackling terrorist activities was one of HKPF's duties in enforcing the law and combating crimes. The aim was to prevent and detect terrorist activities. On this front, the major work of the Marine Police was to gather intelligence, conduct sea patrols, investigate suspicious activities and handle incidents in which criminals took people or vessels at sea as hostages for the purpose of making demands, extorting ransoms, etc. DRC(M), HKPF gave an account of the specific maritime CT work of the Marine Police, including regular CT drills, CT training for frontline Marine Police officers, high-profile patrols to show the physical presence of the Marine Police and enhance the deterrent effect, contingency plans and exercises for different locations and situations, and strategies and tactical planning for different scenarios. RCCC MAR and the proposed EOSs were key components supporting the entire CT contingency plan. Concerning the terrorist threat level, DRC(M), HKPF advised that so far, no maritime terrorist attack had ever occurred in Hong Kong waters. Notwithstanding this, the Marine Region would continue to step up its CT work.

Anti-smuggling work

94. Mr CHAN Chi-chuen noted that between 2017 and 2019, the Marine Police detected 79 smuggling cases resulting in the arrest of 97 persons. He enquired whether the smuggling activities detected in those cases involved goods being smuggled into Hong Kong from outside or goods being smuggled out of Hong Kong. He also asked whether the two additional EOSs to be installed at Tsim Bei Tsui in Yuen Long and Fan Lau on the south-western tip of Lantau Island would be used for stepping up monitoring of vessels entering Hong Kong illegally or departing from Hong Kong.

95. DRC(M), HKPF responded that the proposed system would be used to monitor all suspicious vessels entering and departing from Hong Kong. Among the vessels which had been handled by the Marine Police for engaging in unlawful activities, those entered Hong Kong mainly involved

illegal immigration, and those departed from Hong Kong mostly involved smuggling of goods.

Intercepting illegal immigrants

96. Regarding the interception of illegal immigrants ("IIs"), Mr Andrew WAN enquired whether the current number of IIs had risen and shown a continuous upward trend.

97. DRC(M), HKPF advised that since the Marine Police had adopted Versatile Maritime Policing Strategy and installed CCS, the number of IIs arrested had reduced by more than 70% from 746 in 2006 to 182 in 2019. US for S supplemented that apart from law enforcement work such as interception of IIs and CT operations, the Marine Police also provided maritime support and rescue services.

98. At 12:32 pm, the Deputy Chairman declared that the meeting be adjourned and FC would continue the deliberation on this item at 2:30 pm on the same day.

99. At 2:31 pm, the Chairman took the chair.

Motion to adjourn the discussion on item FCR(2020-21)54

100. At 2:38 pm, Mr KWONG Chun-yu moved under paragraph 39 of the Finance Committee Procedure ("FCP") that discussion on item FCR(2020-21)54 be adjourned ("the adjournment motion"). The Chairman directed that each member might speak on the adjournment motion once for not more than three minutes.

101. Mr KWONG Chun-yu said that the Administration planned to spend more than \$54 million for the replacement of the CCS of the Marine Police and its seven EOSs as well as the procurement of two new EOSs. The costs were too high. By moving the adjournment motion, he hoped to force the Administration to re-examine the required estimated expenditure. He further pointed out that the agenda item pertaining to the Lantau Tomorrow Vision ("the Vision"), namely FCR(2019-20)27 "Studies related to artificial islands in the Central Waters" ("the Studies"), was the 20th item on the agenda (21 items in total) of today's FC meeting (17 July 2020). This item had aroused heated controversies in the community. He was worried that if FC rushed through its deliberations on all other items in front of the said item, including item FCR(2020-21)54, then the item on "the Studies" could be passed by FC today.

102. Mr WU Chi-wai, Dr KWOK Ka-ki, Mr Jeremy TAM, Mr CHAN Chi-chuen, Ms Claudia MO and Mr SHIU Ka-chun spoke in support of the adjournment motion. In gist, these members considered that information provided by the Administration for agenda item FCR(2020-21)54 was not sufficient enough to properly address members' enquiries, especially those about how this item would be affected by as well as the measures in place to cope with the sanctions, including enhanced controls on the export of dual-use technologies to Hong Kong, imposed successively by US and other countries on Hong Kong in response to the implementation of the Law of the People's Republic of China on Safeguarding National Security in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region in Hong Kong. They further pointed out that in its replies to members' questions, the Administration admitted that the replacement of the CCS of the Marine Police and the procurement of other associated equipment involved certain sensitive commodities for which export licences had to be applied. They were worried that the relevant sanctions would have an impact on the procurement of the equipment, and the Administration might even need to procure substandard equipment instead. They urged the Administration to examine the impact of the relevant sanctions in a holistic manner, make consequential revisions to the discussion paper on item FCR(2020-21)54 where necessary and devise contingency plans, so as to address members' concerns.

103. These members also criticized that the Administration neglected the opposing views on "the Vision" voiced by many people and members of the democratic camp. While the Administration was well aware that the item on "the Studies" would unlikely be passed at today's FC meeting, it still insisted on including the item into the agenda. Such move inevitably aroused concerns about the Administration attempting to lay an "ambush" to push through the item. Therefore, they supported the adjournment motion to express their protest.

104. Mr Jeremy TAM was concerned that the serviceable life of the existing CCS of the Marine Police was only 10 years, shorter than the normal serviceable life of 15 years of similar systems. As it was envisaged that the serviceable life of the existing system could only last for 10 years, and the system had been put into operation as early as in 2010, he queried why the Administration had not submitted the relevant funding proposal to FC for consideration until now. Mr CHAN Chi-chuen noted that according to the implementation schedule of the new system provided by the Administration in the discussion paper, HKPF estimated that tender preparation would not be completed until March 2021, which meant that plenty of time would be available for launching the new system. Hence, FC should not be in a hurry to pass the relevant funding proposal today.

Instead, FC might first support the adjournment motion. Then due consideration could be given to whether the relevant item should be passed.

105. Dr CHIANG Lai-wan and Ms YUNG Hoi-yan spoke against the adjournment motion. The two members said that agenda item FCR(2020-21)54 had nothing to do with "the Vision". Some members moved and supported the adjournment motion in order to prevent FC from passing the item on "the Studies". Their actions were unreasonable and wasting meeting time. They pointed out that there were still a number of outstanding items closely related to people's livelihood on the agenda of this FC meeting, such as injection into Hong Kong Athletes Fund and the implementation of Enhancement and Start-up Grant Scheme for Self-financing Post-secondary Education. If those members delayed the deliberation on various livelihood-related items out of their dissatisfaction towards "the Vision", it would be unfair to the affected organizations and personnel concerned.

106. At the invitation of the Chairman, US for S responded that in 2005, the Government sought funding approval from FC for installing a CCS and seven EOSs for the Versatile Maritime Policing Response Strategy. The required estimated expenditure was about \$99.8 million (the actual expenditure was about \$85 million), and the expected serviceable life of the system was 10 years. In view of the fact that the serviceable life of the system would expire soon, the Government briefed the Panel on Security as early as in March 2019 on the proposal to replace the system. He advised that adoption of CCS was a cost-effective option. The Government proposed in 2005 to replace patrols by vessels with the installation of a CCS. Since then, \$395 million of non-recurrent expenditure had been saved as compared to the arrangement of procuring new vessels under the Launch Replacement Programme. The amount of annual recurrent expenditure so saved was around \$86 million. Comparing to the proposal of installing a new system in 2005, the current estimated non-recurrent expenditure required for replacing the system and installing two additional EOSs had greatly reduced to around \$540 million, which was considered reasonable.

107. Regarding members' concerns about the sanctions imposed by US on Hong Kong, US for S referred to paragraph 2 of the supplementary information note (LC Paper No. FC254/19-20(01)). He said that the CCS of the Marine Police was used to monitor the offshore waters and co-ordinate marine operations by the Marine Region. It comprised EOSs, central servers, consoles, workstation hardware and software, etc. The EOSs were for the detection, recognition and identification of objects at sea. Each EOS comprised (a) a long range daylight camera; (b) a TI

which worked by detecting the temperature difference between different objects at night and during periods of low visibility (e.g. on foggy days); and (c) a pan-tilt platform for controlling the EOSs. Among these devices, no export licence was required for the long range daylight camera and pan-tilt platform for controlling the EOSs. Although an export licence was required for TI, quite a number of countries other than the US also manufactured the relevant device. Based on the Government's understanding, with regard to the relevant device manufactured in China, the technologies adopted did not involve those patents or copyrights developed by or held by the US.

108. In response to members' concerns about the position of the item on "the Studies" on the agenda of this FC meeting, Deputy Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury (Treasury)¹ advised that the only consideration of the Government in compiling the agenda of today's FC meeting was to include into today's agenda all items that had undergone examinations by the Public Works Subcommittee, the Establishment Subcommittee and the relevant Panels. As at today (17 July), a total of 21 items were ready for examination by FC, and the item on "the Studies" had always been the 20th item on the agenda. The Government had never changed the sequence.

109. The Chairman said that before the meeting, he had indicated to Ms Tanya CHAN, the representative of Members of the democratic camp, that even if meeting time permitted, FC would not examine the item on "the Studies" at today's meeting. However, due to a lack of trust between the Government and members of the democratic camp, the latter still insisted on moving the adjournment motion to delay the progress of the meeting. He expressed helplessness for such situation.

110. At 3:07 pm, Mr KWONG Chun-yu spoke in reply in respect of his adjournment motion. He said that in the past, a number of major public works projects had resulted in severe cost overrun, and "the Vision" was all the more a waste of manpower and money. He hoped to stop FC from examining the item on "the Studies" by moving the adjournment motion. The Chairman said that the item on "the Studies" proposed to conduct preliminary studies on whether phased reclamation for the formation of artificial islands in the central waters between the Hong Kong Island and Lantau should be taken forward. The item neither proposed to implement the formation of artificial islands nor seek funding for the reclamation works. He believed that members of the public would give a fair judgment on whether it was reasonable on the part of members of the democratic camp to hinder FC from examining the funding proposal for the preliminary studies.

111. At 3:09 pm, the Chairman put the adjournment motion to vote. At the request of members, the Chairman ordered a division. The motion was negatived.

Motions proposed by members under paragraph 37A of the Finance Committee Procedure

112. At 2:44 pm, the Chairman announced that he would stop receiving motions proposed by members under FCP 37A ("FCP 37A motions").

113. At 3:23 pm, members voted on whether the FCP37A motion proposed by Mr CHAN Chi-chuen should be proceeded with forthwith. The Chairman put to vote the question that the FCP 37A motion should be proceeded with forthwith. At the request of members, the Chairman ordered a division. The Chairman declared that the question on proceeding with the motion forthwith was negatived.

Voting on FCR(2020-21)54

114. At 3:28 pm, the Chairman put item FCR(2020-21)54 to vote. At the request of members, the Chairman ordered a division. The Chairman declared that 37 members voted in favour of and 20 members voted against the item, and no members abstained from voting. The votes of individual members were as follows:

For:

Mr Abraham SHEK Lai-him	Mr Jeffrey LAM Kin-fung
Mr WONG Ting-kwong	Ms Starry LEE Wai-king
Mr CHAN Hak-kan	Dr Priscilla LEUNG Mei-fun
Mr WONG Kwok-kin	Mrs Regina IP LAU Suk-yee
Mr Michael TIEN Puk-sun	Mr Steven HO Chun-yin
Mr Frankie YICK Chi-ming	Mr YIU Si-wing
Mr MA Fung-kwok	Mr CHAN Han-pan
Mr LEUNG Che-cheung	Ms Alice MAK Mei-kuen
Mr KWOK Wai-keung	Mr Christopher CHEUNG Wah-fung
Ms Elizabeth QUAT	Mr Martin LIAO Cheung-kong
Mr POON Siu-ping	Dr CHIANG Lai-wan
Ir Dr LO Wai-kwok	Mr CHUNG Kwok-pan
Mr Jimmy NG Wing-ka	Dr Junius HO Kwan-yiu
Mr Holden CHOW Ho-ding	Mr SHIU Ka-fai
Mr Wilson OR Chong-shing	Ms YUNG Hoi-yan
Mr CHAN Chun-ying	Mr CHEUNG Kwok-kwan

Mr LUK Chung-hung Mr Kenneth LAU Ip-keung
Mr Vincent CHENG Wing-shun Mr Tony TSE Wai-chuen
Ms CHAN Hoi-yan
(37 members)

Against:

Mr James TO Kun-sun Prof Joseph LEE Kok-long
Ms Claudia MO Mr WU Chi-wai
Mr Charles Peter MOK Mr CHAN Chi-chuen
Mr Kenneth LEUNG Dr KWOK Ka-ki
Mr Dennis KWOK Wing-hang Dr Fernando CHEUNG Chiu-hung
Dr Helena WONG Pik-wan Mr IP Kin-yuen
Mr Alvin YEUNG Mr Andrew WAN Siu-kin
Mr CHU Hoi-dick Mr LAM Cheuk-ting
Mr SHIU Ka-chun Dr CHENG Chung-tai
Mr KWONG Chun-yu Mr Jeremy TAM Man-ho
(20 members)

115. The Chairman declared that the item was approved.

**Item 4 — FCR(2019-20)19A
CAPITAL WORKS RESERVE FUND**

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

Environmental Protection Department

**New "Provision of a three-dimensional air pollution monitoring
Subhead network using light detection and ranging technology for
tracking pollution transport over Hong Kong"**

116. The Chairman advised that FC was invited to approve a new commitment of \$55 million under this item, so as to provide a three-dimensional air pollution monitoring network ("3-D monitoring network") using light detection and ranging technology for tracking pollution transport over Hong Kong. The Environment Bureau had consulted the Panel on Environmental Affairs on this proposal on 19 December 2018.

Impacts of sanction measures imposed by overseas countries on the procurement of light detection and ranging systems

117. Ms Claudia MO enquired about the places of origin of the light detection and ranging ("LiDAR") systems of the proposed 3-D monitoring network, and whether technologies from the US would be involved. Mr Kenneth LEUNG asked if the LiDAR systems involved military or civilian technologies, and whether sanctions imposed on Hong Kong by overseas countries would render it impossible for the Administration to procure the systems. Deputy Director of Environmental Protection (3) ("DDEP(3)") replied that LiDAR systems were available from different suppliers and places. Such systems were also civilian instruments which did not involve sensitive technology. Principal Environmental Protection Officer (Air Science), Environmental Protection Department ("PEPO(AS)/EPD") supplemented that technologies used in the LiDAR systems were civilian in nature. The relevant manufacturers also indicated that the supply of such equipment would not be affected by the prevailing international trade relations.

Locations of the monitoring sites

118. Ms Claudia MO enquired about the locations of the five monitoring sites of the proposed 3-D monitoring network. Mr WU Chi-wai asked if the five monitoring sites would be sufficient for analyzing the levels of air pollutants and the directions of air plumes in Hong Kong. PEPO(AS)/EPD replied that as the Administration still needed to investigate the locations for setting up the monitoring sites, information about the exact locations of the monitoring sites would not be available at this moment. He advised that most of the monitoring sites would be set up in the existing government facilities, and it was expected that the monitoring site located in the middle of the territory would be set up within the Victoria Harbour.

Combating regional air pollution problem

119. Ms Claudia MO asked how the Administration would handle the air pollutants affecting the air quality of Hong Kong due to emissions from the Pearl River Delta Region. Mr Andrew WAN asked if regional air pollution problem could be solved by cooperation between Guangdong and Hong Kong. In response, DDEP(3) replied that except for ozone, the concentrations of other key air pollutants in Hong Kong had reduced by about 30% to 60% over the past five to six years, reflecting that the cooperation between Guangdong and Hong Kong was effective. Nevertheless, given the increase in the ozone concentration by about 40%

during the same period, there was a need to set up the proposed 3-D monitoring network, so as to better understand the sources and transportation of ozone, thereby improving the air quality of Hong Kong. Assistant Director of Environmental Protection (Air Policy) ("AD(AP)/EPD") supplemented that the cooperation between Guangdong and Hong Kong also included the routine monitoring of volatile organic compounds in the air, and the formulation of post-2020 regional air pollutant emission reduction targets and proposals, with a view to setting air pollutant emission reduction targets for 2025 and 2030.

120. Mr WU Chi-wai said that the air quality of Hong Kong was very much affected by air pollution on the Mainland. In this connection, he enquired about:

- (a) the difference between the air quality objectives ("AQOs") adopted by the Mainland and Hong Kong, and whether the Mainland had planned to tighten its air quality standards, so as to meet the AQOs set by the World Health Organization ("WHO"); and
- (b) the Mainland's progress and strategy on the improvement of air quality.

121. In response, AD(AP)/EPD said that:

- (a) except for having a higher average annual concentration limit of respirable suspended particulates (PM₁₀), the AQOs of the Mainland were the same as that of Hong Kong. The Hong Kong Government and the Guangdong Provincial Government had jointly set emission reduction targets and the Guangdong Province had met the target of 2015 on time. From 2013 to 2019, the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Pearl River Delta Regional Air Quality Monitoring Network recorded approximately 20% to 50% of reductions in the concentrations of key air pollutants, with reduction rates similar to that of Hong Kong, and the time of low visibility in Hong Kong had also reduced by half during the same period, reflecting that the regional air quality had improved; and
- (b) the Guangdong Province had already implemented a number of measures to improve the air quality, such as increasing the use of natural gas at power plants, installing flue gas desulphurization devices in coal-fired generation units and implementing the China 6 emission standards (broadly

equivalent to Euro VI standard) in 2019 for vehicles.

Tendering procedure

122. Mr CHAN Chi-chuen pointed out that logos of individual companies and some simplified characters were shown respectively in the photos in Enclosure 2 and Enclosure 3 to FCR(2019-20)19A. He questioned whether the Administration had already decided on the winning bidder before it invited tender for the LiDAR systems. Mr CHAN also referred to paragraph 10 of LC Paper No. CB(1)319/18-19(06), which mentioned that the Guangdong Provincial Government was setting up similar 3-D monitoring network in the Guangdong Province and there would be cooperation between the Guangdong Provincial Government and the Hong Kong Government in this respect. Nevertheless, FCR(2019-20)19A had made no reference to the aforesaid details. He queried whether the Administration was trying to play down the cooperation with the Guangdong Provincial Government, with an intention to procure the same types of instruments from the same suppliers which had supplied the equipment to the Guangdong Provincial Government.

123. PEPO(AS)/EPD replied that the photos in Enclosure 2 were just indicative photos. According to his understanding, before the paper was issued, logos of individual companies in the photos should have been removed. He apologized for the fact that logos of individual companies were still being shown in the photos. He and DDEP(3) said that the LiDAR systems required for setting up the proposed 3-D monitoring network would be procured by inviting tenders from worldwide suppliers, and there was no designated supplier for the provision of such equipment. DDEP(3) supplemented that as ozone problem was a regional problem, upon setting up the proposed 3-D monitoring network and obtaining data on air quality, the Government would exchange views with the Guangdong Provincial Government, so as to study methods for handling regional air pollution together.

124. Mr Kenneth LEUNG asked the Government to provide information about:

- (a) whether operation of the proposed 3-D monitoring network would require integration with the various types of LiDAR systems referred to in FCR(2019-20)19A;
- (b) whether tenders would be invited for the various types of LiDAR systems and the computer hardware and software required for analyzing information separately or together;

- (c) the weighting of the technical aspect in the overall score during tender assessment; and
- (d) the number of companies or countries around the world which could supply radar equipment.

125. PEPO(AS)/EPD replied that:

- (a) different types of LiDAR systems would be used for carrying out different detection work;
- (b) as the tender would cover the hardware and software required for the LiDAR systems and the data collected by the systems would be analyzed by the existing computer systems of the Government, it would not be necessary to invite tender for the procurement of any software for analyzing data. The Administration would issue a tender document and suppliers interested in bidding might submit tender in respect of individual LiDAR system only;
- (c) the weightings for the technical and price aspects in the tender were 60% and 40% respectively; and
- (d) there were radar manufacturers currently in the US, Europe and the Mainland.

Pollutants monitored by the proposed three-dimensional air pollution monitoring network

126. Mr Kenneth LEUNG enquired whether the proposed 3-D monitoring network was able to monitor other air pollutants, such as nitrogen oxides and sulphur dioxide. PEPO(AS)/EPD replied that the proposed 3-D monitoring network would mainly be used for monitoring suspended particulates and ozone and could not be used for monitoring nitrogen oxides and sulphur dioxide.

127. Dr Helena WONG enquired whether the LiDAR system installed on a vehicle or permanent monitoring stations located on the ground level could collect data on air pollutants (such as suspended particulates, dioxins, etc.) in areas where the Police had fired tear gas rounds or sprayed blue-dyed solution. AD(AP)/EPD replied that the particulate LiDAR system was only installed on a vehicle to facilitate deployment at different locations when necessary. There was still a need to use the system at

fixed locations.

128. PEPO(AS)/EPD supplemented that:

- (a) the instruments used in the proposed 3-D monitoring network would not measure data relating to water pollution;
- (b) tear gas was mainly a particulate compound, and after analyzing the particulate matter ("PM") data recorded at the air quality monitoring stations near areas where tear gas rounds had been fired, the Administration did not find any significant changes in PM levels; and
- (c) there had not been any significant changes in the dioxin concentrations recorded over the past year at the two local monitoring stations for measuring the level of dioxins.

129. In response to Dr Helena WONG's enquiry on the effects of dioxins, PEPO(AS)/EPD pointed out that dioxins were persistent organic pollutants that could remain intact in the environment for a long period of time.

Review of Air Quality Objectives in Hong Kong

130. Mr SHIU Ka-chun was concerned that concentration of suspended particulates would affect the health of those who suffered from respiratory and cardiovascular illnesses, but AQOs adopted by the Hong Kong Government were laxer than those adopted by WHO. He enquired whether the Administration would revise the standards adopted, so as to minimize the impacts of air pollution problem on human health. Mr SHIU also asked the Administration to provide the annual growth rate of the number of people who suffered from cardiovascular diseases and/or chronic respiratory diseases due to air pollution, and elaborate on the relation between air pollution and cardiovascular diseases and/or chronic respiratory diseases.

131. DDEP(3) replied that the current average 24-hour concentration limit for fine suspended particulates (PM_{2.5}) set under AQOs in Hong Kong was 75 µg/m³, which had met the Interim Target-1 in the World Health Organization Air Quality Guidelines ("the WHO Guidelines"); and among the prevailing 12 AQOs, six of them had already met the ultimate targets of the WHO Guidelines. In accordance with the law, the Administration should review AQOs at least once in every five years. In the review of AQOs completed last year, one of the recommendations put forward by the

Government was to tighten the 24-hour average concentration limit for fine suspended particulates (PM_{2.5}) to 50 µg/m³ (Interim Target-2 in the WHO Guidelines). The Government would review AQOs in a gradual and progressive manner, with a view to meeting the ultimate targets in the WHO Guidelines.

[*Post-meeting note:* The supplementary information provided by the Administration was issued to members on 10 August 2020 vide LC Paper No. FC265/19-20(01).]

Data interoperability and sharing between Guangdong and Hong Kong

132. Dr Helena WONG enquired:

- (a) whether the Guangdong Province had installed a facility similar to the proposed 3-D monitoring network;
- (b) whether the data collected by the 3-D monitoring networks in Guangdong and Hong Kong were interoperable;
- (c) who had the authority of using the monitoring data; and
- (d) about the cycle for releasing the monitoring data, e.g. whether the monitoring data could be released on an hourly basis.

133. PEPO(AS)/EPD responded that:

- (a) similar LiDAR systems had also been set up in the Guangdong Province, but unlike the situation on the Mainland, each monitoring site in the proposed 3-D monitoring network would be equipped with the three types of LiDAR systems to be procured. It was believed that more comprehensive and accurate data could be collected by the equipment concerned;
- (b) Guangdong and Hong Kong had been sharing the data collected by the air quality regional monitoring networks with each other in the past 10-odd years. Upon the commissioning of the proposed 3-D monitoring network, Guangdong and Hong Kong would discuss the ways to share the data;

- (c) as the data collected by the proposed 3-D monitoring network were relatively complicated, it was planned that upon analyzing the data, the relevant information would be presented as graphs, so as to facilitate public understanding; and
- (d) the proposal on the cycle for releasing the monitoring data had yet to be finalized, depending on the workload of data analysis.

134. DDEP(3) supplemented that the Government would release the monitoring data to the public, but it would be difficult to release the monitoring data on an hourly basis because data computation took time.

The alternative proposal of procuring measurement data from a contractor

135. Referring to LC Paper No. FCR(2019-20)19A, Mr WU Chi-wai pointed out that the normal lifespan of a LiDAR system was five years. He enquired:

- (a) whether the Administration would need to seek funding approval from FC every five years, so as to replace the equipment;
- (b) if the alternative proposal of procuring measurement data from a contractor as mentioned in the paper was adopted, whether more room for competition among suppliers in the market would be available, so that the sale price of such measurement data could be lowered; and
- (c) if measurement data were procured from a contractor, whether government officers could still analyze the data through mathematical models without the need to operate the proposed 3-D monitoring network directly.

136. DDEP(3) responded that:

- (a) although the suppliers pointed out that the normal lifespan of a LiDAR system was five years and the rate of wear and tear of an ozone LiDAR system would even be faster, with proper maintenance and repair of spare parts, it was believed that the lifespan of a LiDAR system could exceed five years; and

- (b) the Government had decided to develop the proposed 3-D monitoring network instead of procuring measurement data from a contractor, having regard to the fact that the Government would be able to participate directly in the operation of the relevant system, and it could then keep abreast of new technology in using LiDAR systems to measure air pollutants and train government officers at the same time to enable them to process and analyze the data.

137. PEPO(AS)/EPD supplemented that if the proposed 3-D monitoring network was operated by government officers directly, the accuracy of the data obtained by the network could be assessed in conjunction with other auxiliary data, such as the actual weather and environmental conditions on a specific day and the data collected by other local and Mainland monitoring stations, etc. On the contrary, if measurement data were merely procured from a contractor, it would be difficult to assess whether such data were accurate.

Impacts of the instruments used in the proposed three-dimensional air pollution monitoring network on the health of the public

138. Dr Helena WONG enquired whether the health of the public would be affected, if the instruments used in the proposed 3-D monitoring network were operated in densely-populated areas. PEPO(AS)/EPD replied that the energy released by the relevant instruments set up in the urban areas would be relatively low, and the instruments would send laser beams towards the sky instead of the buildings. As such, the health of the public would not be affected.

Voting on FCR(2019-20)19A

139. At 4:18 pm, the Chairman said that since he intended to complete the consideration of item 5 to item 8 on the agenda before the end of the meeting, he would conclude the discussion and put item FCR(2019-20)19A to vote after members who were awaiting their turn to speak had spoken.

140. At 4:24 pm, the Chairman put item FCR(2019-20)19A to vote. At the request of members, the Chairman ordered a division. The Chairman declared that 43 members voted in favour of and 9 members voted against the item; and no members abstained from voting. The votes of individual members were as follows:

For:

Mr Abraham SHEK Lai-him

Mr Tommy CHEUNG Yu-yan

Mr Jeffrey LAM Kin-fung	Mr WONG Ting-kwong
Ms Starry LEE Wai-king	Mr CHAN Hak-kan
Dr Priscilla LEUNG Mei-fun	Mr WONG Kwok-kin
Mrs Regina IP LAU Suk-yee	Mr Michael TIEN Puk-sun
Mr Steven HO Chun-yin	Mr Frankie YICK Chi-ming
Mr WU Chi-wai	Mr YIU Si-wing
Mr MA Fung-kwok	Mr CHAN Han-pan
Mr LEUNG Che-cheung	Ms Alice MAK Mei-kuen
Mr KWOK Wai-keung	Mr Christopher CHEUNG Wah-fung
Dr Fernando CHEUNG Chiu-hung	Dr Helena WONG Pik-wan
Ms Elizabeth QUAT	Mr Martin LIAO Cheung-kong
Mr POON Siu-ping	Ir Dr LO Wai-kwok
Mr CHUNG Kwok-pan	Mr Andrew WAN Siu-kin
Mr CHU Hoi-dick	Mr Jimmy NG Wing-ka
Dr Junius HO Kwan-yiu	Mr Holden CHOW Ho-ding
Mr SHIU Ka-fai	Mr Wilson OR Chong-shing
Mr CHAN Chun-ying	Mr CHEUNG Kwok-kwan
Mr LUK Chung-hung	Mr LAU Kwok-fan
Mr Kenneth LAU Ip-keung	Mr KWONG Chun-yu
Mr Vincent CHENG Wing-shun	Mr Tony TSE Wai-chuen
Ms CHAN Hoi-yan	
(43 members)	

Against:

Prof Joseph LEE Kok-long	Ms Claudia MO
Mr Charles Peter MOK	Mr CHAN Chi-chuen
Mr Kenneth LEUNG	Dr KWOK Ka-ki
Mr IP Kin-yuen	Mr Alvin YEUNG
Mr SHIU Ka-chun	
(9 members)	

141. The Chairman declared that the item was approved.

Item 5 — FCR(2019-20)16A

**HEAD 47 — GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT:
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNMENT CHIEF
INFORMATION OFFICER**

**Subhead — General non-recurrent
700**

Item 894 — "Enriched IT Programme in Secondary Schools"

142. The Chairman advised that this item sought the approval FC for an increase in the approved commitment of Subhead 700 "General non-recurrent" Item 894 "Enriched IT Programme in Secondary Schools" ("EITP") from \$75 million by \$500 million to \$575 million for implementing the "IT Innovation Lab in Secondary Schools" initiative ("the proposed initiative") under the existing EITP.

143. At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr Charles Peter MOK, Chairman of the Panel on Information Technology and Broadcasting ("ITB Panel"), briefed members on the discussion of ITB Panel on the item. Mr MOK said that ITB Panel discussed the item at the meeting on 11 March 2019. Members supported the Administration's funding proposal, and considered that the proposed initiative was conducive to grooming information technology ("IT") talents and promoting the development of IT in Hong Kong. Members indicated that the Administration should integrate IT elements into learning activities, and suggested that the Administration should provide funding support to publicly funded secondary schools on a matching basis so that the recipient schools would have to contribute and commit to the initiative. Some members were concerned whether the funding was sufficient to cover hardware maintenance and upgrades. Some other members expressed concern as to whether implementing the proposed initiative would increase teachers' workload, and enquired whether participating secondary schools would enhance IT manpower support, or whether extra-curricular activities ("ECA") would be outsourced to service providers so as to alleviate the pressure faced by teachers. The Panel requested representatives from the Education Bureau ("EDB") to attend the FC meeting on which the relevant funding approval was sought. A motion was passed as follows: "This Panel supports the Information Technology Innovation Labs scheme as a means to strengthening popular science education and 'Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics' (STEM) education, and calls on the Special Administration Region Government to expeditiously expand the scheme to all primary schools in the territory, in addition to secondary schools".

Target beneficiaries of the proposed initiative

144. Mr Charles Peter MOK supported the funding proposal in order to take forward the proposed initiative as soon as possible. Mr MOK considered that the Government was duty-bound to strengthen popular science education and "Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics" ("STEM") education, and EDB officials should attend this FC meeting to answer members' questions on the relevant education policies. Mr MOK pointed out that the target beneficiaries of many IT

education funding schemes, such as The Jockey Club Self-directed learning in STEM Project funded by The Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust, already covered primary and secondary school students. He considered that the Government should expeditiously expand the proposed initiative to all primary schools in the territory. Dr Helena WONG also hoped the Government would consider expanding the proposed initiative to primary schools.

145. In response, Secretary for Innovation and Technology ("S for IT") advised that, as far as nurturing IT talents was concerned, the Government considered that it should begin at the secondary school stage. In this connection, the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer ("OGCIO") had implemented EITP to provide funding support for eight partner secondary schools to operate enriched IT classes, and to provide funding support for secondary schools in the territory to organize various types of IT activities. About 20 000 students were benefitted, indicating that the initiative was very effective. The aim of the Government at this stage was to roll out the initiative to all publicly funded secondary schools in the territory. As to whether it would expand the proposed initiative to primary schools, the Government would review afresh at a later stage.

146. Mr IP Kin-yuen thanked the Innovation and Technology Bureau ("ITB") for providing support to schools for promoting IT education. Mr IP considered that EDB was duty-bound to promote IT education in schools. Whether the measures were within or beyond the school curriculum, EDB should play a crucial role in overall planning, promotion and co-ordination, and it should collaborate with ITB to take forward the relevant initiative. However, EDB did not send officials to attend the relevant committee meetings of Legislative Council ("LegCo") to answer questions raised by members, claiming that the proposed initiative mainly focused on providing funding support to schools for organizing ECA.

147. Ir Dr LO Wai-kwok strongly supported the funding proposal. He commented that attaching no importance to technology would affect the future development of Hong Kong. Therefore, he hoped the Administration could fully implement STEM education and not to underestimate the innovation and technology potentials of primary school students. Moreover, as there were still a number of outstanding funding proposals to be dealt with at this meeting, Dr Lo also hoped FC could make good use of the meeting time to handle the remaining items.

Funding scope of the proposed initiative and support provided to participating schools

148. Mr WU Chi-wai asked about the details of providing funding support to schools for procuring cloud servers and acquiring cloud services under the proposed initiative. In view of technological advancement, Mr WU considered that it would be better for the Government to provide funding support to and encourage participating schools to make good use of existing cloud services, instead of merely providing funding support to schools for procuring computer hardware equipment that required frequent updates or upgrades. He enquired whether, under the proposed initiative, participating schools had to procure/acquire cloud servers/cloud services on their own, or OGCIO would co-ordinate and consolidate the needs of a number of participating schools and procure/acquire large cloud servers/cloud services for shared use by schools; and if participating schools were required to procure/acquire the relevant servers/services on their own, whether the schools concerned had sufficient resources and professionals to handle the matter.

149. S for IT pointed out that providing funding support to participating schools for acquiring cloud services was covered in the proposed initiative. Since different schools and their students had their own needs, schools could apply individually for procuring the necessary services. In order to assist schools in procurement and organizing activities, OGCIO had set up a one-stop support centre to provide schools with professional advice and support. It would also provide a reference list of IT equipment to schools. OGCIO had also explored with the industry concessionary arrangements for school-editions of their hardware, software, cloud services and tools, etc. He also pointed out that EDB had all along been providing relevant subsidies to schools for meeting the expenses arising from IT education and hiring IT support staff.

150. Dr Helena WONG expressed concern about the coordination between ITB and EDB on the implementation of the proposed initiative. She enquired whether ITB and/or EDB had ensured that schools participating in the proposed initiative had sufficient manpower dedicated to handling relevant duties (including preparing proposals and organizing activities), and whether funding support or subsidies would be provided to participating schools for hiring additional manpower to perform the new duties.

151. S for IT stressed that ITB had been maintaining communication with EDB when planning for the proposed initiative and it had secured the support of EDB. Meanwhile, ITB had consulted secondary school

councils and organized forums for secondary school principals and teachers to promote the proposed initiative and receive their views, and they generally supported the proposed initiative and were willing to participate in it. S for IT considered that the increase in workload for schools and teachers due to participating in the proposed initiative would be relatively small. Government Chief Information Officer ("GCIO") added that the funded activities to be organized under the proposed initiative were ECA by nature, and the funding could be used for hiring short-term or part-time staff (such as part-time coding instructors), or paying industry professionals for providing short courses to students, etc. Also, in order to assist schools in organizing relevant activities, the one-stop support centre set up by OGCIIO would provide schools with professional advice and support.

152. Mr CHAN Chi-chuen noted that under the proposed initiative, each publicly funded secondary school would be provided with funding support of up to \$1 million. He asked about the details of the funding to be approved, including whether the proportionate amount of funding granted for acquiring equipment and organizing activities would be set out, whether the funding could be used for replacing existing equipment, and whether existing equipment of schools would be taken into account when determining if schools' applications for acquiring new equipment would be approved, etc.

153. S for IT said that the proposed initiative was ECA-oriented. Secondary schools participating in the proposed initiative could make use of the funding to organize relevant activities and acquire hardware equipment and professional services relating to such activities. Regarding approval of funding, S for IT and GCIO explained that the Administration did not set any limit on the respective proportions of the funding allocated for organizing activities and acquiring hardware equipment relating to such activities. Generally speaking, the Administration expected that under each and every application, the amounts used for organizing activities and acquiring or replacing equipment each accounted for about half of the funding. Moreover, although schools were usually equipped with some basic IT-related equipment, the Administration would not refuse schools' applications for acquiring new equipment, and it would approve the applications according to the needs set out by schools.

154. Mr WU Chi-wai noted that more than 610 principals and teachers from 360 secondary schools had participated in the briefing sessions conducted by OGCIIO in June and July 2019. However, based on the calculation that funding support of up to \$1 million would be provided to each publicly funded secondary school under the proposed initiative, a non-current commitment of \$500 million applied by the Government for

implementing the proposed initiative should be able to benefit at least 500 publicly funded secondary schools. In this connection, Mr WU enquired about the target number of secondary schools receiving funding support under the proposed initiative, and whether OGCIO would proactively reach out to schools which were less capable in implementing IT activities, with a view to assisting them in applying for the proposed initiative.

155. Dr Helena WONG also enquired, with respect to the estimated number of secondary schools participating in the proposed initiative, whether those schools offering STEM curriculum and students studying STEM curriculum would be the main targets, and how long a non-current commitment of \$500 million was expected to last. Dr WONG pointed out that the number of students taking STEM-related subjects in the Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education Examination had dropped to only 5 983 in 2019. She was worried that the number of people who aspired to pursue a career in the IT industry in future would be limited, and the proposed initiative might fail to achieve the intended objective of nurturing more talents for the IT industry.

156. S for IT pointed out that 142 secondary schools had organized various IT activities since the implementation of EITP. Participating secondary schools covered a wide spectrum, including those of different backgrounds and categories. As a number of secondary schools indicated that there was substantial demand from students for IT activities, the Administration believed that the proposed initiative would generally be well received by schools. According to the Administration's information, there were currently about 500 publicly funded secondary schools in the territory, thus the Government had to set aside a non-current commitment of \$500 million to implement the proposed initiative in the three school years starting from 2020/2021. It was estimated that the commitment sought could, in three years' time, support all secondary schools which were interested in participating in the proposed initiative. The targets of the proposed initiative were not limited to secondary schools offering STEM curriculum or students studying STEM curriculum. In addition, the Administration would continue to proactively reach out to different publicly funded secondary schools to promote the proposed initiative and provide support to schools in applying for the proposed initiative. S for IT further pointed out that, as the demand for IT talents in various industries was strong, the Government had to enhance the interest and innovative thinking of young people (including secondary school students) in IT, with a view to encouraging them to choose technology-related tertiary education programmes and pursue a career in the innovation and technology industry in future.

157. Ms Elizabeth QUAT supported the funding proposal to tie in with promoting the popularization of innovation and technology. Ms QUAT expressed concern about the digital divide currently existed among different schools and different students. She pointed out that not all schools offered STEM curriculum at present and some schools had even lagged behind in promoting IT education, resulting that the ability in IT application of some students was less favorable. This might affect their competitiveness in the workplace in future. Ms QUAT considered that the Administration should expeditiously expand the proposed initiative to all secondary schools in three years' time, and proactively plan to expand the initiative to primary schools, so to cultivate students' interest in learning IT at an early stage and achieve an overall improvement in IT skills among students, thereby reducing digital divide. She also enquired whether the Government would arrange dedicated teams to proactively assist schools and students which/who had lagged behind in IT application.

158. Mr CHAN Chi-chuen also enquired, as many schools even lacked basic IT equipment to support their curriculums as well as sufficient capability, resources and manpower to organize IT-related ECA, how this type of schools in need and their students could be supported under the proposed initiative.

159. S for IT said that the Government proposed increasing the approved commitment of EITP from \$75 million by \$500 million to \$575 million for benefitting all students of publicly funded secondary schools in the territory, in particular providing opportunities for financially needy students to participate in IT-related ECA. GCIO pointed out that funded activities under the proposed initiative would include sharing of experience in IT application among schools at different levels in the same district. The one-stop support centre and dedicated team under OGCIO would proactively reach out to schools in need to provide technical support and advice. S for IT also undertook to provide sufficient support to schools in need and those lagging behind in implementing IT education through the one-stop support centre and dedicated team.

Voting on FCR(2019-20)16A

160. At 5:08 pm, the Chairman put item FCR(2019-20)16A to vote. The Chairman declared that the majority of the members present and voting were in favour of the item. The item was approved.

Item 6 — FCR(2020-21)64

**HEAD 53 — GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT:
HOME AFFAIRS BUREAU**

Subhead — General non-recurrent

700

Funding Support for Sports Development

New Item "Injection into Hong Kong Athletes Fund"

161. The Chairman advised that this item invited FC to approve a new commitment of \$250 million for injection into the Hong Kong Athletes Fund ("HKAF").

162. The Chairman stated that the Home Affairs Bureau ("HAB") had consulted the Panel on Home Affairs on the relevant proposal on 24 June 2019.

Support for elite athletes

163. Mr CHAN Chi-chuen considered that the injection of a \$250 million fund was a moderate provision. Apart from the one-off injection into HKAF, Mr CHAN urged the Administration to actively consider providing recurrent financial commitments to support Hong Kong elite athletes in the long run, including launching the Elite Athletes Performance Recognition Scheme ("EAPRS"), which provided financial support to retired Hong Kong athletes with outstanding performance in the international sports arena, so to encourage more people to join the ranks of full-time athletes. Mr CHAN also enquired how long the injection amount under the funding proposal was expected to last and whether the Government would make further injections in future.

164. Under Secretary for Home Affairs ("USHA") said that the Government attached importance to deploying sufficient resources to support and nurture elite athletes, including allocating, through the \$11.3 billion Elite Athletes Development Fund, a funding of \$737 million to the Hong Kong Sports Institute ("HKSI") this year to cover its recurrent operational expenses, etc. The Government was also committed to supporting the dual career development of elite athletes in education and sports training. With the injection of \$250 million into HKAF, the Government would implement various enhancement measures to strengthen the provision of education grants and scholarship awards, etc. for elite athletes. According to the Administration's estimation, the annual expenditure of HKAF would be about \$24.8 million upon the implementation of the enhancement measures. If necessary, the

Government would consider further injecting funds into HKAF in future. Also, the Government had implemented different programmes, including the Retired Athletes Transformation Programme rolled out in 2016 to help retired athletes to join sports organizations and schools to give full play to their strength and skills. The programme had benefitted 175 retired athletes so far. According to the employment information of the Office of Hong Kong Athletes Career & Education Programme, the employment situation of retired athletes was satisfactory.

165. Mr LUK Chung-hung enquired about the definition of full-time athletes, the number of full-time athletes among elite athletes, and the Government's financial support provided to non-full-time athletes/athletes with potentials, including whether training allowances would be provided.

166. USHA pointed out that there were currently around 1 300 elite athletes in HKSI, and among them, around 500 were full-time senior or junior athletes (i.e. those receiving a minimum of five days and 25 hours of training per week). HKSI provided free accommodation and catering to full-time athletes. Moreover, they could apply for training subsidies. Elite A+ full-time athletes could receive a monthly subsidy of up to \$41,000 to \$48,000, while non-full-time athletes could receive a monthly subsidy of up to \$16,000.

Mechanisms of the Sports Federation & Olympic Committee of Hong Kong, China for selecting athletes to participate in international events

167. Mr LAM Cheuk-ting pointed out that the Public Accounts Committee ("PAC") conducted earlier on public hearings on the governance of the Sports Federation & Olympic Committee of Hong Kong, China ("SF&OC"). During the hearings, it was revealed that there was insufficient transparency in the mechanisms of SF&OC for selecting athletes to participate in international events, and that there existed in some National Sports Associations the problem of abusing power for personal gains, resulting in unfair selection. As the eligibility requirements of the education grants and EAPRS under HKAF were based on the vote levels attained by athletes in major events, whether athletes were entitled to participate in major international events had direct impact on their vote levels. In this connection, Mr LAM urged the Administration to safeguard the fairness of selecting athletes for participating in sports events, so to ensure elite athletes with strong capabilities could receive the financial support under HKAF and proper use of public funds.

168. USHA pointed out that PAC had published a report on the aforesaid issues, and SF&OC had undertook to set up a dedicated team to review the

relevant mechanisms.

Others views

169. Mr Andrew WAN urged HAB to review the works progress and situation of renovating the Hong Kong Jockey Club International BMX Park at Kwai Chung Park by the Cycling Association of Hong Kong, China.

Voting on FCR(2020-21)64

170. At 5:24 pm, the Chairman put item FCR(2020-21)64 to vote. The Chairman declared that the majority of the members present and voting were in favour of the item. The item was approved.

[At 5:25 pm, the Chairman advised that the meeting be extended by up to 15 minutes to 5:45 pm, and that the meeting would end after FCR(2020-21)56 and FCR(2020-21)65 had been dealt with. Members raised no objection.]

Item 7 — FCR(2020-21)56

LOAN FUND

HEAD 262 — PRIMARY PRODUCTS

**Subhead Fish Marketing Organization Loan Fund — fishing
132 moratorium loan scheme**

171. The Chairman advised that this item invited FC to approve:

- (a) increasing the loan ceiling per vessel under the Fishing Moratorium Loan Scheme ("FMLS") from \$300,000 to \$500,000, which may be further increased up to \$750,000, on the advice of the Fish Marketing Advisory Board; and
- (b) increasing the approved commitment by \$210 million to \$270 million for providing loans under FMLS.

172. The Chairman advised that the Food and Health Bureau had consulted the Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene on the relevant proposal on 14 January 2020.

Loan amount under the Fishing Moratorium Loan Scheme

173. Mr Steven HO pointed out that the fishing moratorium had been extended to three and a half months this year (i.e. from 1 May to 16 August), and that the fishing industry faced a challenging environment as a result of the lengthened annual fishing moratorium, coupling with a continued increase in operating costs. There was a dire need for the fishing industry to secure loans through FMLS for repair works on their vessels so that they could tide over the prolonged fishing moratorium and resume operations after the moratorium. Furthermore, being affected by the Coronavirus Disease 2019 epidemic this year, the fishing industry had suffered from an increase in additional operating costs incurred, among others, for compliance with some new testing requirements imposed by the Mainland. Given that there was only one month left before the end of the fishing moratorium, Mr HO enquired if the funding proposal was approved by FC today, whether the Administration would accept applications from fishermen for additional loans under the new loan ceiling (i.e. \$500,000 per vessel) and when would the additional loans be disbursed to fishermen whose applications were successful. Mr HO was also concerned about the problem of oil theft targeting fishing vessels moored inside typhoon shelters and he urged the Administration to step up patrol.

174. Assistant Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation (Fisheries) ("AD(F)/AFCD") advised that since the fishing moratorium began in May, the Government had been receiving and processing loan applications from fishermen and it had deployed internal resources of the Fish Marketing Organization to provide up to \$400,000 in loans to each vessel. After communicating with the fishermen concerned, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department ("AFCD") considered that the relevant loan amount should be sufficient to meet the financial needs of fishermen. The Administration would review afresh the loan arrangements in case fishermen experienced any special financial difficulties.

Measures against illegal fishing

175. Dr Helena WONG expressed support for rendering assistance to the fishing industry in the form of loans. She also enquired whether measures were in place to deter fishermen from engaging in illegal trawling during the fishing moratorium.

176. AD(F)/AFCD advised that AFCD had set up a maritime law enforcement unit ("the unit") to conduct random patrol and perform maritime law enforcement duties in Hong Kong waters throughout the year

(including the fishing moratorium). Only sporadic cases of illegal fishing were detected in the past two months and the unit would forthwith chase and intercept the fishing vessels concerned. In the event that the fishing vessels concerned fled towards Mainland waters, the unit would notify the Mainland law enforcement authorities for follow-up actions. The unit would also conduct joint operations with the relevant law enforcement departments (including the Marine Police) if situation warranted.

Voting on FCR(2020-21)56

177. At 5:31 pm, the Chairman put item FCR(2020-21)56 to vote. The Chairman declared that the majority of the members present and voting were in favour of the item. The item was approved.

Item 8 — FCR(2020-21)65

**HEAD 156 — GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT:
EDUCATION BUREAU**

**Subhead Operational expenses
000**

**Subhead General Non-recurrent
700**

**New Item "Enhancement and Start-up Grant Scheme for
Self-financing Post-secondary Education"**

178. The Chairman advised that this item invited FC to approve:

- (a) an honorarium at a rate of \$165,400 per member per annum for non-local members of the Committee on Self-financing Post-secondary Education ("CSPE");
- (b) a delegation of authority to the Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury to revise the honorarium for non-local members of CSPE, having regard to the Civil Service Pay Adjustments in future; and
- (c) a new commitment of \$1.26 billion for implementing the proposed Enhancement and Start-up Grant Scheme for Self-financing Post-secondary Education.

179. The Chairman advised that EDB had consulted the Panel on Education on the relevant proposal on 5 June 2020.

180. While expressing support for the funding proposal, Dr Helena WONG requested the Government to undertake that it would review and improve the governance of self-financing post-secondary institutions as well as update the relevant legislation in the next LegCo term, with a view to promoting management democratization, allowing more stakeholders to participate in school policies and ensuring teaching and program quality. In response, Under Secretary for Education advised that she would follow up on Member's suggestions.

Voting on FCR(2020-21)65

181. At 5:33 pm, the Chairman put item FCR(2020-21)65 to vote. The Chairman declared that the majority of the members present and voting were in favour of the item. The item was approved.

[Mr Jeremy TAM had proposed earlier at the meeting that FC could proceed to deal with item 21 (i.e. FCR(2020-21)69) before the conclusion of the meeting. However, as some members indicated their wishes to raise questions on the item, Mr TAM eventually withdrew his proposal.]

182. The meeting ended at 5:36 pm.

Legislative Council Secretariat

16 February 2021