

立法會

Legislative Council

LC Paper No. CB(2)110/19-20
(These minutes have been
cleared with the Chairman)

Ref : CB2/PL/FE

Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene

Minutes of meeting
held on Friday, 18 October 2019, at 10:30 am
in Conference Room 1 of the Legislative Council Complex

Members present : Hon Tommy CHEUNG Yu-yan, GBS, JP (Chairman)
Dr Hon Helena WONG Pik-wan (Deputy Chairman)
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 Paul TSE Wai-chun, JP
Hon Steven HO Chun-yin, BBS
Hon Frankie YICK Chi-ming, SBS, JP
Hon CHAN Chi-chuen
Hon CHAN Han-pan, BBS, JP
Hon Alice MAK Mei-kuen, BBS, JP
Dr Hon KWOK Ka-ki
Hon KWOK Wai-keung, JP
Hon Elizabeth QUAT, BBS, JP
Dr Hon CHIANG Lai-wan, SBS, JP
Ir Dr Hon LO Wai-kwok, SBS, MH, JP
Hon Andrew WAN Siu-kin
Dr Hon Junius HO Kwan-yiu, JP
Hon HO Kai-ming
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
Hon AU Nok-hin
Hon Vincent CHENG Wing-shun, MH, JP
Hon Tony TSE Wai-chuen, BBS
Hon CHAN Hoi-yan

Member attending : Hon Martin LIAO Cheung-kong, GBS, JP

Members absent : Prof Hon Joseph LEE Kok-long, SBS, JP
Hon Claudia MO
Hon CHU Hoi-dick

Clerk in attendance : Miss Josephine SO
Chief Council Secretary (2) 2

Staff in attendance : Ms Wendy LO
Senior Council Secretary (2) 2

Mr Clement HAU
Council Secretary (2) 2

Miss Cally LAI
Legislative Assistant (2) 2

Ms Camy YOONG
Clerical Assistant (2) 2

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I. Election of Chairman and Deputy Chairman for the 2019-2020 session
(Appendices II, III and IV to LC Paper No. CB(2)3/19-20)

Election of Chairman

As Dr KWOK Ka-ki, Chairman for the 2018-2019 session, had not yet arrived at the conference room when a quorum was present at 10:30 am, Mr SHIU Ka-fai, Deputy Chairman for the 2018-2019 session, presided over the election of the Chairman.

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2. Mr SHIU Ka-fai called for nominations for the chairmanship of the Panel. Mr Tommy CHEUNG was nominated by Mr Steven HO and the nomination was seconded by Ms Elizabeth QUAT. Mr Tommy CHEUNG accepted the nomination. Dr Helena WONG was nominated by Mr Andrew WAN and the nomination was seconded by Mr AU Nok-hin and Mr HUI Chi-fung. Dr Helena WONG accepted the nomination. No further nominations were made.

3. Mr AU Nok-hin suggested that the two candidates be given time to present their election platforms.

4. Mr Tommy CHEUNG said that he would not make any presentation.

5. Dr Helena WONG said that she was very concerned about the Administration's work in safeguarding food safety in Hong Kong. Since the Audit Commission and The Ombudsman had highlighted in their recent reports the deficiencies identified in the Centre for Food Safety ("CFS")'s food safety management and import control, the Administration should reinforce its capability in surveillance of foods imported by air, land and sea. Dr WONG hoped that Panel members would continue to join hands in monitoring and examining issues of public concern relating to food safety and environmental hygiene.

6. Mr SHIU Ka-fai then announced a vote by secret ballot. The result of the vote was that 28 members voted for Mr Tommy CHEUNG and seven members voted for Dr Helena WONG. Mr SHIU declared Mr Tommy CHEUNG elected as the Chairman of the Panel for the 2019-2020 session. Mr Tommy CHEUNG thenceforth took the chair.

Election of Deputy Chairman

7. The Chairman called for nominations for the deputy chairmanship of the Panel. Dr Helena WONG was nominated by Mr SHIU Ka-chun and the nomination was seconded by Mr Andrew WAN. Dr Helena WONG accepted the nomination.

8. As there was no other nomination, the Chairman declared Dr Helena WONG elected as the Deputy Chairman of the Panel for the 2019-2020 session.

II. Schedule of meetings for the 2019-2020 session

9. Members agreed to hold regular meetings on the second Tuesday of each month at 2:30 pm. As members agreed not to schedule a meeting immediately following the Easter holiday for 2020 which would fall between 10 and 13 April 2020, the regular meeting in April 2020 would be held on Tuesday, 21 April 2020, from 4:30 pm to 6:30 pm.

10. The Chairman informed members that taking into consideration that some of the Panel meetings held in the last two sessions had been extended to last for more than two hours due to the number of items discussed at those meetings, the Secretariat had reserved a three-hour timeslot (from 2:30 pm to 5:30 pm) for each of the regular meetings scheduled for the months of December 2019 as well as January, March, May and June 2020. Members noted that following previous practice adopted in the last two sessions, the Chairman might adjust/change the end time of the meetings having regard to the number of discussion items on the agenda of respective meetings.

(Post-meeting note: The schedule of the regular meetings of the Panel for the 2019-2020 session was issued to members vide LC Paper No. CB(2)25/19-20 on 18 October 2019.)

III. Items for discussion at the next meeting

(Appendices V and VI to LC Paper No. CB(2)3/19-20)

Policy briefing on 29 October 2019

11. The Chairman said that a meeting had been tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, 29 October 2019 from 9:30 am to 11:00 am to receive a briefing by the Secretary for Food and Health ("SFH") on the Chief Executive's 2019 Policy Address in respect of the portfolio of food safety, environmental hygiene as well as agriculture and fisheries. As he had to attend a meeting of the Executive Council in the morning of 29 October 2019, the Chairman asked whether members were agreeable to advancing the meeting time of the policy briefing to start at 8:30 am and end at 10:00 am that day. Mr Steven HO said that he supported the Chairman's suggestion. No members raised objection to the above proposed arrangement.

(Post-meeting note: The agenda for the policy briefing was issued vide LC Paper No. CB(2)27/19-20 on 18 October 2019.)

12. Mr Steven HO and Ms CHAN Hoi-yun expressed concern that there was little mention in the 2019 Policy Address of new or existing policy initiatives on food safety as well as agriculture and fisheries. Mr HO

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considered that the Administration should, in its paper to be submitted to the Panel for discussion at the policy briefing on 29 October 2019, set out in detail the policy initiatives of the Food Branch of the Food and Health Bureau ("FHB") in respect of agriculture, fisheries, food safety and environmental hygiene for the year ahead. The Chairman noted that the 2019 Policy Address did not provide details on the Administration's plan to build a temporary public market in Tin Shui Wai, which had been announced by FHB in early October 2019. He said that members might pursue these issues of concern with the Administration at the upcoming policy briefing meeting.

Regular meeting in November 2019

13. Members agreed to discuss the following items at the next regular meeting scheduled for Tuesday, 12 November 2019 at 2:30 pm:

- (a) Guidelines on the use of deep-frying oil for the trade; and
- (b) Construction of the Animal Management and Animal Welfare Building Complex in Kai Tak Development.

14. The Deputy Chairman hoped that when the Panel discussed the item "Guidelines on the use of deep-frying oil for the trade" at the regular meeting in November, the Administration would indicate whether it would consider formulating detailed safety and quality standards for edible fats and oils and developing testing methods for assessing the safety and quality of cooking oils used by food premises.

15. The Chairman said that there was no specific regulatory legislation or safety standard for edible fats and oils in Hong Kong. In his view, the Administration should conduct studies to find out whether there was any testing method (e.g. using DNA analysis) for detecting whether the oils used in cooking were "gutter oils", so that the Administration could introduce measures to prevent substandard cooking oils from re-entering the local food chain as edible oil products. He hoped that the Administration would address these issues at the regular meeting on 12 November 2019.

16. Mr Steven HO and Dr CHIANG Lai-wan expressed concern that the retail price of fresh pork had surged noticeably as a result of a reduced supply of live pigs from the Mainland since the outbreaks of African Swine Fever ("ASF") on the Mainland. Mr HO considered it necessary for the Administration to update members on its follow-up work in response to ASF preferably within the fourth quarter of 2019, covering the latest development of ASF outbreak and the measures adopted by the Administration to mitigate the adverse impact arising from the shortfall of supply of Mainland live pigs. The Deputy Chairman expressed support for Mr HO's suggestion, adding that

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the Administration should also brief the Panel on CFS' surveillance work to prevent contaminated pork products from entering the local food supply chain.

17. In view of members' concerns, the Chairman instructed the Clerk to liaise with the Administration to see whether it stood ready to brief members in November 2019 on various matters relating to the handling of ASF.

(Post-meeting note: Members were informed vide LC Paper No. CB(2)34/19-20 issued on 22 October 2019 that an item "Latest progress on the work in response to African Swine Fever" had been included into the agenda of the November regular meeting.)

Items proposed for discussion at future meetings

18. Referring to the Panel's list of outstanding items for discussion, Ms YUNG Hoi-yan noted that issues relating to the management of public markets, the implementation of the Market Modernization Programme and the provision of new markets (i.e. item 4 on the list) were tentatively scheduled for discussion in the autumn of 2019. She hoped that arrangement would be made for discussion of the matter in December 2019.

19. Mr Steven HO said that the Administration should review the policies and measures to promote the sustainable development of the fisheries industry, in particular those conducive to the development of mariculture. Mr HO further said that he had reservations about the Administration's proposal to resume issuance of new marine fish culture licences starting from early-2020. He suggested that the Panel should hold a discussion on this initiative before implementation.

20. The Deputy Chairman suggested that the Administration should be requested to update members on its progress of reviewing legislation relating to animal welfare and its stance regarding the enactment of comprehensive legislation on animal protection.

21. Dr CHIANG Lai-wan expressed concern that the nutrition labels of some prepackaged food products were not presented in a clear and legible manner. She suggested that the Panel should follow up with the Administration on the implementation of the Nutrition Labelling Scheme.

22. The Chairman said that he would bring up the issues/suggestions raised by members at the meeting with SFH to discuss the work plan of the Panel for the 2019-2020 session.

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IV. Any other business

23. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 11:00 am.

Council Business Division 2
Legislative Council Secretariat
30 October 2019