

**立法會**  
***Legislative Council***

LC Paper No. FC268/20-21  
(These minutes have been  
seen by the Administration)

Ref : FC/1/1(35)

**Finance Committee of the Legislative Council**

**Minutes of the 36<sup>th</sup> meeting**  
**held in Conference Room 1 of the Legislative Council Complex**  
**on Friday, 24 September 2021, from 3:06 pm to 4:49 pm**

**Members present:**

Hon CHAN Kin-por, GBS, JP (Chairman)  
Hon CHAN Chun-ying, JP (Deputy Chairman)  
Hon Abraham SHEK Lai-him, GBS, JP  
Hon Tommy CHEUNG Yu-yan, GBS, JP  
Hon Jeffrey LAM Kin-fung, GBS, JP  
Hon WONG Ting-kwong, GBS, JP  
Hon Starry LEE Wai-king, SBS, JP  
Hon CHAN Hak-kan, SBS, JP  
Dr Hon Priscilla LEUNG Mei-fun, SBS, JP  
Hon WONG Kwok-kin, GBS, JP  
Hon Mrs Regina IP LAU Suk-ye, GBM, GBS, JP  
Hon Paul TSE Wai-chun, JP  
Hon Michael TIEN Puk-sun, BBS, JP  
Hon Steven HO Chun-yin, BBS, JP  
Hon Frankie YICK Chi-ming, SBS, JP  
Hon YIU Si-wing, SBS  
Hon MA Fung-kwok, GBS, JP  
Hon LEUNG Che-cheung, SBS, MH, JP  
Hon Alice MAK Mei-kuen, BBS, JP  
Hon Christopher CHEUNG Wah-fung, SBS, JP  
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-kwok, GBS, MH, JP  
Hon CHUNG Kwok-pan  
Hon Jimmy NG Wing-ka, BBS, JP  
Dr Hon Junius HO Kwan-yiu, JP  
Hon Holden CHOW Ho-ding  
Hon SHIU Ka-fai, JP  
Hon Wilson OR Chong-shing, MH  
Hon YUNG Hoi-yan, JP  
Dr Hon Pierre CHAN  
Hon CHEUNG Kwok-kwan, JP  
Hon LUK Chung-hung, JP  
Hon LAU Kwok-fan, MH, JP  
Hon Kenneth LAU Ip-keung, BBS, MH, JP  
Hon Tony TSE Wai-chuen, BBS, JP

**Members absent:**

Hon CHAN Han-pan, BBS, JP  
Hon KWOK Wai-keung, JP  
Hon Vincent CHENG Wing-shun, MH, JP

**Public officers attending:**

Miss Cathy CHU Man-ling	Permanent Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury (Treasury)
Mr Raistlin LAU Chun, JP	Deputy Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury (Treasury) 1
Miss CHAN Cheuk-yin, Jennie	Principal Executive Officer (G), Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau (The Treasury Branch)
Ms Mable CHAN, JP	Permanent Secretary for Transport and Housing (Transport)
Ms Christina CHONG Yau-ling	Deputy Secretary for Transport and Housing (Transport) 5
Mr WONG Sai-fat	Deputy Director of Marine (1)
Dr CHOI Yuk-lin, JP	Under Secretary for Education
Mr Derek LAI Chi-kin	Principal Assistant Secretary for Education (Higher Education)

Mr Louis LEUNG Sze-ho	Deputy Secretary-General (1), University Grants Committee Secretariat
Mr Stephen IP Shing-tak	Chief Technical Adviser (Subvented Projects), Architectural Services Department

**Other persons attending:**

Mr Eric NG Shu-pui	Vice-President (Administration) and University Secretary, The Chinese University of Hong Kong
Professor WONG Kam-bo	Director (School of Life Sciences), The Chinese University of Hong Kong
Mr LI Sing-cheung	Director (Campus Development Office), The Chinese University of Hong Kong

**Clerk in attendance:**

Ms Anita SIT	Assistant Secretary General 1
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**Staff in attendance:**

Miss Bowie LAM	Council Secretary (1)1
Miss Queenie LAM	Senior Legislative Assistant (1)2
Mr Frankie WOO	Senior Legislative Assistant (1)3
Miss Yannes HO	Legislative Assistant (1)7

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Action

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

2. In respect of the public works items to be considered at this meeting, the Chairman declared that he was a Director and the Chief Executive Officer of Well Link Insurance Group Holdings Limited. He was also a Director of Well Link General Insurance Company Limited and Well Link Life Insurance Company Limited, both under the Well Link Insurance Group.

**Item 1 — FCR(2021-22)64  
RECOMMENDATION OF THE PUBLIC WORKS  
SUBCOMMITTEE MADE ON 25 AUGUST 2021**

**PWSC(2021-22)28**

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

**35QW — Revitalisation Scheme – Revitalisation of the Roberts  
Block, Old Victoria Barracks into Roberts Block Open  
HeArts Centre**

**36QW — Revitalisation Scheme – Revitalisation of the Luen Wo  
Market into Luen Wo Market – House of Urban and  
Rural Living**

**37QW — Revitalisation Scheme – Revitalisation of the Former  
Lau Fau Shan Police Station into Hong Kong Guide  
Dogs Academy**

3. The Chairman advised that this item invited Finance Committee ("FC") to approve the recommendation made by the Public Works Subcommittee ("PWSC") on 25 August 2021 to upgrade **35QW**, **36QW** and **37QW** to Category A at estimated costs of \$219.0 million, \$68.2 million and \$98.3 million in money-of-the-day prices respectively. Members noted that no member had requested separate voting on this item at the FC meeting.

Voting on FCR(2021-22)64

4. At 3:08 pm, the Chairman put item FCR(2021-22)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.

**Item 2 — FCR(2021-22)65  
RECOMMENDATION OF THE ESTABLISHMENT  
SUBCOMMITTEE MADE ON 27 AUGUST 2021**

**EC(2021-22)14**

**HEAD 148 — GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT:  
FINANCIAL SERVICES AND THE TREASURY  
BUREAU (FINANCIAL SERVICES BRANCH)**

**Subhead 000 Operational expenses**

5. The Chairman advised that this item invited FC to approve the recommendation made by the Establishment Subcommittee ("ESC") on 27 August 2021 on the following proposals in the Financial Services Branch of the Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau:

- (a) creation of one supernumerary post of Administrative Officer Staff Grade B (D3) and retention of one supernumerary post of Administrative Officer Staff Grade C (D2) both for four years from 1 January 2022, to continue to spearhead the various major legislative and policy initiatives; and
- (b) deletion of four permanent posts of one Commissioner of Insurance (D4) and three Assistant Commissioner of Insurance (D2) of the then Office of the Commissioner of Insurance.

6. Members noted that no member had requested separate voting on this item at the FC meeting.

Voting on FCR(2021-22)65

7. At 3:09 pm, the Chairman put item FCR(2021-22)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.

**Item 3 — FCR(2021-22)66  
RECOMMENDATION OF THE ESTABLISHMENT  
SUBCOMMITTEE MADE ON 27 AUGUST 2021**

**EC(2021-22)16  
GRADE STRUCTURE REVIEW FOR THE DISCIPLINED  
SERVICES GRADES**

8. The Chairman advised that this item invited FC to approve the recommendation made by ESC on 27 August 2021 on the implementation of the relevant recommendations of the grade structure review for the disciplined services grades except those in the Independent Commission Against Corruption ("ICAC"). Members noted that no member had requested separate voting on this item at the FC meeting.

Declaration of interest

9. Mr Tony TSE declared that he was a member of the Standing Committee on Disciplined Services Salaries and Conditions of Service which conducted the grade structure review on the disciplined services grades.

10. Mr Martin LIAO declared that he was an honorary legal adviser to the Junior Police Officers' Association of the Hong Kong Police Force and the Hong Kong Customs and Excise Staff General Association. Ms YUNG Hoi-yan and Dr Priscilla LEUNG declared that they were legal advisers to a number of disciplined services staff unions on a pro-bono basis.

11. Mrs Regina IP and Ms Elizabeth QUAT declared that they were honorary presidents of a number of disciplined services staff unions. Ms Alice MAK stated that a number of disciplined services staff unions were members of the Hong Kong Federation of Trade Unions.

Voting on FCR(2021-22)66

12. At 3:11 pm, the Chairman put item FCR(2021-22)66 to vote. The Chairman declared that a majority of the members present and voting were in favour of the item. The item was approved.

**Item 4 — FCR(2021-22)67**

**RECOMMENDATION OF THE ESTABLISHMENT  
SUBCOMMITTEE MADE ON 27 AUGUST 2021**

**EC(2021-22)17**

**GRADE STRUCTURE REVIEW FOR THE DISCIPLINED  
SERVICES GRADES – INDEPENDENT COMMISSION AGAINST  
CORRUPTION**

13. The Chairman advised that this item invited FC to approve the recommendation made by ESC on 27 August 2021 on the implementation of the relevant recommendations of the grade structure review for the disciplined services grades in ICAC. Members noted that no member had requested separate voting on this item at the FC meeting.

Declaration of interest

14. Mr Steven HO and Ms YUNG Hoi-yan declared that they were members of the ICAC Complaints Committee. Mr Martin LIAO declared that he was the Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Corruption while the Deputy Chairman declared that he was a member of the Operations Review Committee, both being advisory committees tasked to oversee the work of ICAC.

Voting on FCR(2021-22)67

15. At 3:12 pm, the Chairman put item FCR(2021-22)67 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 5 — FCR(2021-22)68  
RECOMMENDATION OF THE ESTABLISHMENT  
SUBCOMMITTEE MADE ON 1 SEPTEMBER 2021**

**EC(2021-22)15**

**HEAD 33 — CIVIL ENGINEERING AND DEVELOPMENT  
DEPARTMENT**

**HEAD 91 — LANDS DEPARTMENT**

**HEAD 118 — PLANNING DEPARTMENT**

**HEAD 51 — GOVERNMENT PROPERTY AGENCY**

**Subhead 000 Operational expenses**

16. The Chairman advised that this item invited FC to approve the recommendation made by ESC on 1 September 2021 on the creation of six supernumerary posts, all for five years with immediate effect upon approval by FC, to take forward policy initiatives to increase land supply in the short, medium and long term.

Voting on FCR(2021-22)68

17. The Chairman said that while no request had been made to vote on this item separately at the FC meeting, a member had requested that each of the staffing proposals of the four departments concerned be put to vote separately. There was no objection from the Administration and the Chairman put each of the proposals to vote.

*(a) three supernumerary posts of Chief Engineer (D1) in the Civil Engineering and Development Department*

18. At 3:13 pm, the Chairman declared that the majority of the members present and voting were in favour of this proposal. The proposal was approved.

*(b) one supernumerary post of Chief Estate Surveyor (D1) in the Lands Department*

19. At 3:14 pm, the Chairman declared that the majority of the members present and voting were in favour of this proposal. The proposal was approved.

*(c) one supernumerary post of Chief Town Planner (D1) in the Planning Department*

20. At 3:14 pm, the Chairman declared that the majority of the members present and voting were in favour of this proposal. The proposal was approved.

*(d) one supernumerary post of Chief Estate Surveyor/Principal Valuation Surveyor (D1) in the Government Property Agency*

21. At 3:15 pm, the Chairman declared that the majority of the members present and voting were in favour of this proposal. The proposal was approved.

**Item 6 — FCR(2021-22)69**

**HEAD 158 — GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT :  
TRANSPORT AND HOUSING BUREAU  
(TRANSPORT BRANCH)**

**Subhead 000 Operational expenses**

22. The Chairman said that this item invited FC to approve the creation of one supernumerary post of Administrative Officer Staff Grade C (D2) in the Transport Branch of the Transport and Housing Bureau ("THB") with immediate effect upon approval of FC for five years to oversee policies and formulate and implement initiatives to strengthen the development of Hong Kong's maritime and port sector.



23. Members noted that at its meeting held on 26 November 2019, the Panel on Economic Development had discussed the original proposal to make permanent the supernumerary D2 post tasked to oversee the future development of Hong Kong's maritime and port sector. The aforesaid staffing proposal was subsequently endorsed by ESC on 6 May 2020.

Justifications for the proposed post

24. Whilst expressing support for the creation of the proposed Principal Assistant Secretary (Transport)11 ("PAS(T)11") post, Mr Christopher CHEUNG considered its job description too broad-brush, and enquired about the quantifiable work targets for the proposed post. Ms Alice MAK was also concerned about key performance indicators, if any. In response, Permanent Secretary for Transport and Housing (Transport) ("PS(T)") advised that:

- (a) on the key task of developing Hong Kong into a maritime services hub, it should be noted that nearly 900 maritime and shipping-related companies were operating in Hong Kong, representing an increase of 7% over the past five years. The number would likely rise after further tax concessionary measures for specific shipping sectors including ship broking, agency and management were implemented;
- (b) to better capitalize on the 14th Five-Year Plan and integrate into the country's development course, Hong Kong would aim to enter into memoranda of understanding with more Mainland ports to foster mutual cooperation;
- (c) on smart port development, PAS(T)11 would work with the trade on the development of a common digitized platform to facilitate data sharing among stakeholders;
- (d) on measures to facilitate the operation of the shipping sector, three additional Regional Desks of the Hong Kong Shipping Registry would be set up in selected locations to provide more direct support for shipowners of Hong Kong flagged ships; and
- (e) PAS(T)11 would be responsible for organizing key events which had been cancelled in previous years, notably the Hong Kong Maritime Weeks and the Asian Logistics, Maritime and Aviation Conference scheduled to be held in late 2021.

25. Mr Frankie YICK expressed strong support for the current proposal and stated the following views:

- (a) the maritime, logistics and port sectors welcomed the implementation of policies and initiatives to foster the sustainable development of the maritime and port industry;
- (b) in grasping the opportunities brought about by the 14th Five-Year Plan, the Administration should strategize the Hong Kong Port ("HKP") for better coordination and collaboration with ports in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area ("GBA"); and
- (c) as the Hong Kong Maritime and Port Board ("HKMPB") was an advisory body, action should be taken to revamp the existing THB with a view to setting up a dedicated department responsible for maritime and port development.

26. Ms Alice MAK concurred that the existing THB was overloaded with numerous responsibilities, resulting in a lack of policy steer and support for maritime development, an area in which Hong Kong had good potentials.

27. PS(T) recapitulated past achievements in fostering maritime and port development, and highlighted the following:

- (a) PAS(T)11 would be responsible for reviewing the functions and powers of HKMPB and the feasibility of broadening and strengthening its role having regard to the possible legal and resources implications; and
- (b) as work in maintaining Hong Kong's competitive edge in maritime and port development was ongoing, the need for the retention or otherwise of the proposed PAS(T)11 post would be reviewed prior to its expiry.

#### Manpower needs of the maritime sector

28. Mr LUK Chung-hung considered that to attract young people to join the maritime sector, action should be taken to promote the clearly defined career paths and opportunities for locally trained cadets to advance to the higher ranks of Third Officers and above; or to get employed onshore, for instance, as Marine Officers or pilots. Shipping companies should also be encouraged to employ more local personnel, in particular deck officers.

29. PS(T) said that the Government would continue to work with stakeholders to address the manpower needs of the maritime sector, and highlighted the following initiatives funded by the Maritime and Aviation Training Fund ("MATF"):

- (a) since 2019 and as a result of enhancements of MATF approved by the Manpower Development Committee of HKMPB, a one-off subsidy of \$12,000 was granted to local vessel trade practitioners who had acquired the Grade 2 local coxswain/engine operator certification of competency;
- (b) with effect from May 2019, the subsidy reimbursable to participating companies of the Maritime and Aviation Internship Scheme had been increased from \$6,000 to \$7,000, or up to 75% of the monthly honorarium paid to interns (whichever was lower) so as to encourage employers to provide more internship opportunities; and
- (c) maritime-related traineeship and scholarship schemes would be set up to incentivise maritime services companies/associations to provide structured and systemic traineeship for young recruits and to sponsor in-service personnel to undertake non-local training courses with specialties not offered in Hong Kong respectively.

30. Ms Alice MAK questioned the work and efficacy of HKMPB in addressing the manpower needs of the maritime sector. She was gravely concerned that apart from the Chairman of the Hong Kong Seamen's Union serving as a co-opted member of the Manpower Development Committee under HKMPB, the membership of HKMPB did not include any representative from trade unions.

31. In this connection, PS(T) advised that:

- (a) set up in April 2016, HKMPB was a high-level platform for the Government to work in partnership with various maritime and port sectors and industry associations/institutions. It held meetings once or twice a year;
- (b) The three Committees of HKMPB tasked to steer maritime/port development, manpower development and promotion/external relations met once or twice a year;

- (c) meetings were also held by ad-hoc task forces set up to study specific subjects; and
- (d) the Government would take note of members' views on the composition of HKMPB for consideration.

32. Noting that maritime arbitration was one of the sub-sectors with clear growth potentials, Dr Priscilla LEUNG stressed the importance of forward planning and providing sufficient maritime arbitrators to meet service demands. In response, PS(T) advised that:

- (a) to nurture more maritime arbitrators for Hong Kong, PAS(T)11 would explore in collaboration with local tertiary institutions the feasibility of including more programmes of suitable maritime law and arbitration through funding support under the MATF; and
- (b) the "Arrangement Concerning Mutual Assistance in Court-ordered Interim Measures in aid of Arbitral Proceedings by the Courts of the Mainland and of the HKSAR" (Arrangement) which took effect in October 2019 would enhance the competitiveness of Hong Kong in attracting arbitration talents, as Hong Kong had become the first jurisdiction outside the Mainland where, as a seat of arbitration, parties to arbitral proceedings seated in Hong Kong and administered by designated arbitral institutions would be able to apply to the Mainland courts for interim measures before the arbitral award was made. As of July 2021, some 947 arbitration cases had sought the application of the Arrangement, with the first case concerning maritime-related arbitration.

#### Issues related to maritime and port development

33. Mr Holden CHOW saw a strong need to promote Hong Kong's strength in providing high value-added maritime services, and expressed the following views:

- (a) insufficient publicity had been given to the establishment of the International Chamber of Shipping ("ICS")'s first-ever Liaison Office in Hong Kong; and

- (b) measures should be taken to create a quality service cluster in Hong Kong to provide the full range of maritime-related financial, insurance, arbitration and legal services.

34. Acknowledging the need to step up publicity, PS(T) said that:

- (a) after the setting up of the ICS (China) Liaison Office in November 2019, publicity activities had been curtailed by social unrests and the pandemic;
- (b) one of the key tasks of PAS(T)11 would be to assist in formulating and implementing policy initiatives for the development of high value-added maritime services and in enhancing the development of a maritime cluster in Hong Kong;
- (c) PAS(T)11 would provide necessary secretariat support to the Promotion and External Relations Committee of HKMPB for promoting Hong Kong's maritime industry; and
- (d) with reference to the ship leasing tax concession initiative, a dedicated Task Force on Commercial Principals had been formed under HKMPB to study tax concessionary measures for specific shipping sectors.

35. Mr Martin LIAO expressed concern about keen competition faced by HKP from neighbouring ports in the Pearl River Delta ("PRD") Region, as well as the future positioning and direction of Hong Kong's maritime sector under the 14th Five-Year Plan. In response, PS(T) advised as follows:

- (a) the 14th Five-Year Plan supported the development of Hong Kong's services sector towards a high-end and high value-added direction;
- (b) as the fourth maritime arbitration venue designated by the Baltic and International Maritime Council, Hong Kong would continue to promote wider use of its maritime arbitration service and seek closer cooperation with ports in the pan-PRD Region; and
- (c) while existing facilities of HKP might be less competitive in terms of handling container throughput, Hong Kong had sought cooperation with new ports, such as seizing the opportunities brought about by the new Western Land-Sea

Corridor to establish liner shipping with Guangxi Province on a daily basis.

36. Regarding the future development and positioning of the existing container terminal in Kwai Chung, Mr Martin LIAO enquired about the input, if any, from the proposed PAS(T)11 post. PS(T) responded that mapping out the future development of the existing container terminal would require thorough study, and that given the time-limited nature of the proposed post, PAS(T)11 would, subject to the views of HKMPB, conduct a preliminary analysis to consider further studies on issues pertinent to the longer-term development of HKP.

Voting on FCR(2021-22)69

37. At 3:58 pm, the Chairman put item FCR(2021-22)69 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 7 — FCR(2021-22)70**

**RECOMMENDATION OF THE PUBLIC WORKS  
SUBCOMMITTEE MADE ON 20 JANUARY 2021**

**PWSC(2020-21)26**

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

**Universities**

**The Chinese University of Hong Kong**

**56EF — Centralised General Research Laboratory Complex  
(Block 2)**

38. The Chairman advised that this item invited FC to approve the recommendation made by PWSC on 20 January 2021 to upgrade **56EF** - The Chinese University of Hong Kong ("CUHK") - Centralised General Research Laboratory Complex (Block 2) ("Complex Block 2") to Category A at an estimated cost of \$1,416.1 million in money-of-the-day prices respectively. Some members had requested that this item be voted on separately at the FC meeting. Members noted that PWSC had discussed this item for about 1 hour 40 minutes while FC had spent some 44 minutes to deliberate on this item on 19 February 2021.

Planned facilities and estimated cost

39. In response to the Deputy Chairman's enquiry on the "research facilities for animal models of human diseases" and the "herbarium" to be housed in Complex Block 2, Director (School of Life Sciences), The Chinese University of Hong Kong ("D(SLS), CUHK") explained that the facilities would be for carrying out studies of human diseases by using animal models; while the herbarium would provide a platform for supporting research and education in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics.

40. The Deputy Chairman enquired whether the relatively high unit cost of \$32,363 per m<sup>2</sup> for the project was due to the predominant use of the building for laboratory purpose, and about the estimated cost for works of the link bridge to adjoining Laboratory Block 1.

41. In response, Director (Campus Development Office), The Chinese University of Hong Kong ("D(CDO), CUHK") advised that the relatively higher construction cost was mainly due to the extensive use of the space in Complex Block 2 as wet laboratories with much higher and more costly requirements in electrical, ventilation and fire services installations, such as laboratory gases and security systems, biosafety cabinets and special furniture for laboratory use.

42. Dr Junius HO enquired about the outcome of the tender invitation for the proposed works in March 2020. D(CDO), CUHK confirmed that the tender outturn price was about \$1.4 billion (i.e. the funding being sought), which would remain valid till January 2022.

The proposed project and technological development

43. Ms Alice MAK enquired how the future Complex Block 2 would facilitate technological research. D(SLS), CUHK advised that:

- (a) Complex Block 2 would mainly be used by the School of Life Sciences ("SLS") for the strategic areas of "Environment and Sustainability" and "Translational Biomedicine"; and
- (b) the new building would provide space for special laboratories such as the State Key Laboratory of Agrobiotechnology ("Key Laboratory") for research in climate-smart agriculture and green house for plant biotechnology researches, as well as state-of-the-art research facilities, thereby contributing to

the Government's goal to develop Hong Kong into an International Innovation and Technology hub.

44. Ir Dr LO Wai-kwok expressed support for the current proposal and urged CUHK to make the best use of its geographical proximity to major technology infrastructures. He further enquired about measures to promote synergy with the Hong Kong Science Park ("HKSP").

45. In response, Vice-President (Administration) and University Secretary, The Chinese University of Hong Kong ("VP(A)&US, CUHK") outlined the following initiatives:

- (a) with funding support from the Innovation and Technology Bureau, CUHK would set up several research and development centres in HKSP focusing on artificial intelligence and robotics;
- (b) the Hong Kong Institute of Biotechnology Limited established by CUHK had signed an agreement with HKSP on setting up "Good Manufacturing Practice" facilities for stem cell research;
- (c) CUHK would leverage its strength in upstream research to support the Government's effort in re-industrialization in Hong Kong and manpower development in GBA; and
- (d) CUHK would strengthen its presence in Shenzhen, Qianhai and Futian for research activities.

46. Whilst concurring with the need to invest in higher education, Dr Junius HO considered that the discussion paper had not provided sufficient information to enable members to conceive the importance of the proposed project in promoting the overall technological development in Hong Kong and the Mainland. He also raised the following concerns:

- (a) how Complex Block 2 would facilitate research development in life sciences and biomedical sciences in Hong Kong;
- (b) given that CUHK had already set up research centres in the Mainland (e.g. Futian, Shenzhen), the added value, if any, of the proposed project and how it would achieve synergy with these research centres; and



- (c) further details on the Key Laboratory, the credentials and contributions of CUHK in agricultural science.

47. In this regard, VP(A)&US, CUHK and D(SLS), CUHK highlighted that:

- (a) all along, Hong Kong had excelled in upstream research, which could synergize with the neighbouring region in commercialization of research deliverables;
- (b) life sciences was a discipline with over 50 years of history in CUHK;
- (c) CUHK first obtained approval from the Ministry of Science and Technology to establish a partner laboratory in 2008, which was subsequently rectified as the Key Laboratory in 2018; and
- (d) CUHK had made outstanding achievements in Plant and Agricultural Science, a notable example being the genome research of soybean by the research team led by Prof LAM Hon-ming which led to the development of a new soybean variant that could be planted in draught land.

48. At the request of Dr Junius HO, CUHK would provide a detailed written response to the concerns raised by him.

[*Post-meeting note:* The supplementary information provided by the Administration was issued to members vide LC Paper No. FC 249/20-21(01) on 20 October 2021.]

### Other concerns

#### *Campus security*

49. Mr Tony TSE expressed support for the current item and sought an update on measures to step up security in the CUHK campus and its vicinity in the wake of extensive vandalism in 2019, including the feasibility of revising the land lease conditions regarding public access to the university. Ms Alice MAK declared that she was an alumna of CUHK and a Member of its Council. She enquired on the security arrangements for Complex Block 2.

50. In response, VP(A)&US, CUHK highlighted the following security measures:

- (a) since November 2019, persons entering CUHK campus were required to show their identity documents and in the case of members of the public, to register their particulars;
- (b) apart from increasing the manpower of its Security Office, CUHK had also engaged outsourced security staff;
- (c) following a comprehensive review by the security consultant engaged by CUHK in early 2020, about 30 of the 170 buildings located in the campus had been identified to be of strategic importance for which access control and security manpower deployment would be stepped up. Security on each floor and each room of the building would also be tightened;
- (d) in August 2021, to tie in with the upcoming academic year, a card access system had been installed to better regulate entry to CUHK campus; and
- (e) CUHK had discussed with relevant government departments the feasibility of revising relevant land lease conditions and would continue work in this regard.

*Moral and national security education*

51. Dr Priscilla LEUNG declared that she was an alumna of CUHK and the University of Hong Kong. Whilst expressing support for the current proposal to strengthen hardware support for technological research, Dr LEUNG urged for measures to instill positive moral values in students, notably patriotism, respect for the rule of law and other people's rights. In response, VP(A)&US, CUHK outlined the following initiatives:

- (a) after admission, freshmen were required to attend a seminar on national security while monthly thematic seminars on national security were held for students and staff;
- (b) workshops were organized for graduates to enhance their knowledge of the Basic Law; and

- (c) national security and related topics would be incorporated in the courses under the new Co-operative Education Programme launched by CUHK.

*Students from the Mainland*

52. Mr SHIU Ka-fai said that Members of the Liberal Party supported the current proposal. He also informed the meeting that Mr Tommy CHEUNG was a Member of the Council of CUHK. In the light of past incidents of harassment and the tight control of cross-boundary people flow due to the pandemic, Mr SHIU was concerned about the impact on Mainland students studying in CUHK. VP(A)&US, CUHK and D(SLS), CUHK advised that:

- (a) there had not been any significant drop in the number of Mainland students studying in CUHK. Where necessary, online teaching was used to enable learning without in-person attendance;
- (b) as far as users of Complex Block 2 were concerned, the proportion of local and non-local researchers/research postgraduate students from SLS was about 40% and 60% respectively; and
- (c) among non-local users doing research, about 90% were students from the Mainland.

Voting on FCR(2021-22)70

53. At 4:49 pm, the Chairman put item FCR(2021-22)70 to vote. The Chairman declared that the majority of the members present and voting were in favour of the item. The item was approved.

54. The meeting ended at 4:49 pm.

Legislative Council Secretariat

1 December 2021