

**立法會**  
***Legislative Council***

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**Public Works Subcommittee of the Finance Committee  
of the Legislative Council**

**Minutes of the 9<sup>th</sup> meeting  
held in Conference Room 1 of the Legislative Council Complex  
on Wednesday, 20 January 2021, at 8:30 am**

**Members present:**

Hon Tony TSE Wai-chuen, BBS, JP (Chairman)  
Ir Dr Hon LO Wai-kwok, SBS, MH, JP (Deputy Chairman)  
Hon Tommy CHEUNG Yu-yan, GBS, JP  
Dr Hon Priscilla LEUNG Mei-fun, SBS, JP  
Hon Michael TIEN Puk-sun, BBS, JP  
Hon Frankie YICK Chi-ming, SBS, JP  
Hon MA Fung-kwok, GBS, JP  
Hon CHAN Han-pan, BBS, JP  
Hon LEUNG Che-cheung, SBS, MH, JP  
Hon Alice MAK Mei-kuen, BBS, JP  
Dr Hon Junius HO Kwan-yiu, JP  
Hon Holden CHOW Ho-ding  
Hon Wilson OR Chong-shing, MH  
Hon CHEUNG Kwok-kwan, JP  
Hon LUK Chung-hung, JP  
Hon LAU Kwok-fan, MH  
Dr Hon CHENG Chung-tai  
Hon Vincent CHENG Wing-shun, MH, JP

**Member absent:**

Hon Abraham SHEK Lai-him, GBS, JP

**Public officers attending:**

Mr Howard LEE Man-sing	Deputy Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury (Treasury) <sup>3</sup>
Mr Francis CHAU Siu-hei, JP	Deputy Secretary for Development (Works) <sup>3</sup>
Ms Bernadette LINN, JP	Permanent Secretary for Development (Planning and Lands)
Ms Maisie CHENG Mei-sze, JP	Permanent Secretary for the Environment
Ms Margaret HSIA Mai-chi	Principal Assistant Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury (Treasury)(Works)
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
Mr Wallace LAU Ka-ki, JP	Deputy Secretary for Transport and Housing (Transport) <sup>4</sup>
Miss Winsome AU Wai-sum	Principal Assistant Secretary for Transport and Housing (Transport) <sup>8</sup>
Mr Michael LI Kiu-yin	Project Director (2) Architectural Services Department

Ms Sandy FONG Wing-shan	Senior Project Manager 219 Architectural Services Department
Ms NG Kit-ching	Assistant Commissioner (Boundary and Ports) Customs and Excise Department
Dr LEUNG Yiu-hong	Chief Port Health Officer Department of Health
Ms Alice LEE Nga-lai	Chief Superintendent of Police (Planning and Development) Hong Kong Police Force
Mr Benson KWOK Joon-fung	Assistant Director (Control) Immigration Department
Dr CHUI Tak-yi, JP	Under Secretary for Food and Health
Ms Leonie LEE Hoi-lun	Principal Assistant Secretary for Food and Health (Health)1
Mr Paul LEE Chun-kau	Senior Project Manager 242 Architectural Services Department
Dr Dominic TSANG Ngai-chong	Consultant (Microbiology)1 Department of Health
Dr Teresa LI Mun-pik	Assistant Director of Health (Health Administration and Planning)
Mr Gilford LAW Sun-on	Principal Assistant Secretary for Food and Health (Food)2
Mr Edward TSE Cheong-wo, JP	Deputy Director of Architectural Services
Mr Saadullah SAT Sing-hin	Senior Project Manager 324 Architectural Services Department
Mr WONG Chuen-fai, JP	Assistant Director of Environmental Protection (Waste Recycling Innovation Planning)

Miss Diane WONG Shuk-han, JP	Deputy Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Environmental Hygiene)
Mr LAI Siu-kwong	Assistant Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Operations) <sup>3</sup> (Acting)
Ms Jacqueline HO Yuen-man	District Environmental Hygiene Superintendent (Yuen Long) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
Mr Kepler YUEN Shing-yip	District Planning Officer (Tuen Mun and Yuen Long West) Planning Department

**Attendance by invitation:**

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 FUNG Siu-man	Director Campus Development Office The Chinese University of Hong Kong
Mr LI Sing-cheung	Deputy Director Campus Development Office The Chinese University of Hong Kong
Professor Alfonso NGAN	Senior Advisor The University of Hong Kong
Ms Jeannie TSANG	Registrar The University of Hong Kong
Mr TAM King-leung	Director Estates Office The University of Hong Kong

Mr Albert CHAN	Director (Architect) Wong & Ouyang (HK) Limited
Mr Steven YIU Siu-chung	Deputy Director (Service Delivery) Airport Authority Hong Kong
Mr Collin CHAN Hoo-wing	General Manager (Capital Works Management) Airport Authority Hong Kong

**Clerk in attendance:**

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

Ms Christina SHIU	Legislative Assistant (1)2
Ms Christy YAU	Legislative Assistant (1)8
Ms Clara LO	Legislative Assistant (1)9

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Action

The Chairman advised that there were four papers for discussion on the agenda for the meeting. The first and second items were funding proposals carried over from the last meeting held on 13 January 2021, while the third and fourth proposals were new submissions from the Administration. The four funding proposals involved a total funding allocation of \$3,233.7 million. He reminded members that in accordance with Rule 83A of the Rules of Procedure ("RoP") of the Legislative Council ("LegCo"), they should disclose the nature of any direct or indirect pecuniary interests relating to the funding proposals under discussion at the meeting before they spoke on the proposals. He also drew members' attention to Rule 84 of RoP on voting in case of direct pecuniary interest.

**Head 708 — Capital Subventions and Major Systems and Equipment**

**PWSC(2020-21)26 56EF Centralised General Research Laboratory Complex (Block 2)**

**56EG Redevelopment of No. 2 University Drive (Building 1)**

**64EG Information Technology Building at University Drive**

2. The Chairman advised that the proposal (i.e. [PWSC\(2020-21\)26](#)) sought to upgrade 56EF, 56EG and 64EG to Category A at the estimated costs of \$1,416.1 million, \$599.9 million and \$486.9 million in money-of-the-day ("MOD") prices respectively. The Subcommittee had started discussing this proposal at the last meeting and would forthwith continue with the discussion.

3. Ms Alice MAK, Mr Tommy CHEUNG and Mr LAU Kwok-fan declared that they were members of the Council of The Chinese University of Hong Kong ("CUHK").

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

4. Ms Alice MAK expressed support for the proposed project. However, she was concerned that the proposed research laboratory building was located at the remote northern side of the campus of CUHK (i.e. in Area 39, Tai Po). She enquired about the number of research personnel and students who would use the proposed research laboratory building and the ancillary transport facilities between the building and the Main Campus of the university.

5. Vice-President (Administration) and University Secretary, The Chinese University of Hong Kong ("VP(A)&US/CUHK"), replied that CUHK had implemented a number of projects in and around Area 39, including, among others, Lo Kwee-Seong Integrated Biomedical Sciences Building, two post-graduate halls providing boarding places for about 600 students, and a teaching-research complex funded by the Food and Health Bureau. After the completion of the proposed research laboratory building, the School of Life Sciences would be relocated to Area 39, Tai Po, as part of CUHK's long-term strategy to develop the northern part of its campus into a cluster of research hub for life/biomedical sciences. The proposed research laboratory building could accommodate a large number of research personnel, university students and research postgraduate students working and learning there. As for the transport support for Area 39, the university management would enhance the campus shuttle bus service in due course.

6. Ms Alice MAK said that she was particularly concerned about campus security following the social events and the vandalization of facilities in

university campuses in 2019. She enquired how the university would strengthen on-campus security measures to prevent damage by intruders into the proposed research laboratory building, which was located close to Tolo Highway.

7. VP(A)&US/CUHK said that the university management attached great importance to campus security after the social events in 2019. In this connection, the university had engaged security consultants to review the existing campus security system with a view to strengthening the overall on-campus security measures, as well as individual buildings. However, the university campus was basically open to the public as required under the land lease terms. The university management would take an active stance in reviewing the possibility of amending the relevant land lease terms to strengthen campus security.

8. In response to the Chairman's enquiry about strengthening campus security through building design, Director, Campus Development Office, The Chinese University of Hong Kong ("D(CDO)/CUHK"), said that the windows of the proposed research laboratory building were designed in accordance with the Buildings Ordinance (Cap. 123) and in compliance with the fire services and safety regulations. The concrete outer walls of the lecture hall, laboratories and mechanical plant rooms in the building were structurally sound and stable. In addition, space was reserved at the entrance of the proposed research laboratory building for installation of steel plates. Security installations such as closed-circuit television system and security doors and shutters would be provided in the building, in addition to dangerous goods stores, safe storage facilities, etc. He added that the outer rim of the proposed research laboratory building was about 40 metres away from the railway, and fences were also erected between Area 39, Tai Po, and the railway. Furthermore, the rooftop of the building would be provided with a 1.8-metre-tall surrounding wall to prevent throwing of objects from height. The university would maintain liaison with MTR Corporation Limited and adopt security measures as appropriate.

#### 56EG — Redevelopment of No. 2 University Drive (Building 1)

9. The Chairman noted that an existing staff quarters building at University Drive on the main campus of the University of Hong Kong ("HKU") was proposed to be demolished and a research laboratory building was proposed to be constructed in-situ. He enquired whether there was an oversupply of staff quarters at HKU and whether the number of staff quarters would be reduced as a result of the project.

10. Director, Estates Office, The University of Hong Kong ("D(EO)/HKU"), replied that the staff quarters building at University Drive was built years ago. As the building was approaching the end of its life cycle, the university proposed that the building be demolished to make way for the development of the research laboratory building. As a matter of fact, the university was still in need of staff quarters. It would embark on the plans to redevelop the staff quarters on Pokfield Road and at a site at High West in Pok Fu Lam with its own funds to provide appropriate accommodation for staff and visiting scholars.

#### Security of university laboratories

11. The Deputy Chairman expressed support for the proposed projects and considered Hong Kong's scientific research achievements were comparable to other international research institutions. Noting that a State Key Laboratory would be provided in the proposed new research laboratory building of CUHK, he enquired how the laboratory security measures (including fire safety and shock resistant installations, etc.) would be enhanced during the design of the research laboratory building.

12. In response, D(CDO)/CUHK said that university laboratories must comply with the stringent requirements such as sound proofing and acoustics, electromagnetic interference resistance, shock resistance, moisture and temperature control and weight load. In a nutshell, a laboratory would be equipped with negative pressure system to ensure that the air discharged from the laboratory would not be recirculated to the common area outside the laboratory. Laboratory personnel should also handle all infection-related materials within the biological safety cabinets in the laboratory, among other requirements. Furthermore, the passages to university laboratories were equipped with closed-circuit television surveillance system, and the laboratory operator(s) would be responsible for the security of the laboratory concerned. As regards the chemical substances stored and used on the campus, usually only a small amount of such substances was used in university laboratories for teaching and research purpose. The proposed research laboratory building would also be equipped with dangerous goods stores. The transport of chemical substances was undertaken jointly by three parties, namely the office responsible for university laboratory safety, the office responsible for campus safety and the laboratory user.

13. D(EO)/HKU said that laboratories of HKU had adopted similar procedures as CUHK for storage and handling of chemical substances. Moreover, HKU would allocate additional resources to laboratory safety enhancement and handling of emergencies on the campus. In the light of the experience gained from the social events in 2019, entrances to the university's



laboratories would be provided with double protection. Meanwhile, security systems such as closed-circuit television and alarm would be installed within the research laboratory building, and access control would be implemented at the building entrance to step up security and management.

14. Dr Priscilla LEUNG sought clarification from the universities as to whether the proposed projects were in any way related to the damage to university campuses arising from the social events in 2019. Dr LEUNG said that all places in Hong Kong, including universities, were governed by the laws of Hong Kong. The university management had the duty to ensure that the campuses were used only for lawful activities. She commented that it was incumbent on the managers of universities, regardless of whether they were UGC-funded universities or self-financing post-secondary institutions, to deal with illegal activities that took place on their campuses in accordance with the law and to seek assistance from law enforcement agencies where appropriate and necessary.

15. In response, VP(A)&US/CUHK and Senior Advisor, The University of Hong Kong ("SA/HKU"), said that the proposed projects of CUHK and HKU were not related to the social events in 2019. VP(A)&US/CUHK further said that CUHK had planned the construction of the proposed research laboratory building as early as 10 years ago. While acknowledging that the law applied equally to university campuses, he pointed out that university security staff were not law enforcement officers and were not vested with the capability and power to deal with public order incidents. Generally speaking, the university management would seek the assistance of law enforcement agencies (e.g. the Police) if illegal activities were detected. SA/HKU said that the two proposed projects on the HKU campus were regular projects which had been planned quite a while ago. Following the implementation of the four-year undergraduate curriculum under the new academic structure for senior secondary education and higher education ("the 3+3+4 structure"), the university required more on-campus facilities to address the inadequacy of the existing facilities for education and research in science and engineering disciplines. SA/HKU agreed that the law would apply to university campuses. He added that the university had put in place internal mechanisms to deal with emergencies on the campus and would seek the assistance of law enforcement agencies (including the Police) in the light of the actual need.

16. Mr Holden CHOW expressed support for the proposed projects. He said that the public was profoundly concerned that the campus of CUHK was occupied during the social events and CUHK graduates had staged a protest and displayed banners and flags of Hong Kong independence on the campus during the online graduation ceremony of the university. He urged the university management to step up liaison with the Police to deal swiftly with

any illegal activities on the campus. Noting that a State Key Laboratory of Agrobiotechnology would be provided in the new research laboratory building of CUHK, Mr CHOW enquired whether the proposed State Key Laboratory would support or/and collaborate with the Mainland in conducting research; if so, what measures were in place to render extra protection to such experiment projects.

17. Director, School of Life Sciences, The Chinese University of Hong Kong, explained that although endowed with vast land, China had limited farmable land due to the arid climate, and its agricultural production had difficulties in meeting the demand of the huge population of the nation. The State Key Laboratory of Agrobiotechnology led by Professor LAM Hon Ming of the School of Life Sciences of CUHK was dedicated to researching climate-smart agriculture biotechnologies and products with mission to increase agricultural productivity and safeguard national food security. For instance, the laboratory had achieved research success and found that the salt tolerance gene from wild soybeans could adapt to marginal and low-fertility land, a finding that would help promote sustainable agriculture in arid regions such as Gansu Province. Regarding laboratory security, CUHK had put in place stringent security measures including those that were integrated into building design, closed-circuit television surveillance system, etc. SA/HKU said that HKU currently had no plans to undertake national key research projects in the proposed research laboratory building and Information Technology Building.

18. Mr Holden CHOW was pleased to note that CUHK would set up a laboratory to support the country in developing state-of-the-art agrobiotechnologies, and considered that this indicated the country's trust in Hong Kong's scientific research work. He urged the university to step up laboratory security and protect the State Key Laboratory and its experiment projects against intentional sabotage.

19. Dr Priscilla LEUNG mentioned that the laboratories of local universities (such as the Hong Kong Polytechnic University and CUHK) had been intruded into and dangerous chemicals therein had been stolen. She believed that the persons involved were university personnel as they were familiar with the campus setting. Dr LEUNG enquired how the universities followed up on the theft of dangerous chemicals, including whether the persons involved were still working at the relevant laboratories and what preventive and emergency measures were in place to prevent the recurrence of similar incidents in the proposed new research laboratory buildings.

20. In response, VP(A)&US/CUHK said that the campus of CUHK was occupied by protesters in November 2019, during which dangerous goods

including concentrated nitric acid and concentrated sulfuric acid were reported stolen. These chemical substances were not stolen from the laboratories but from the dangerous goods store of the university. Normally speaking, the dangerous goods store of a university could be easily identified. After the chemical substances were reported stolen, the university had conducted risk assessment and stepped up the security measures of its dangerous goods store. In response to further enquiry from Dr Priscilla LEUNG, VP(A)&US/CUHK said that no similar theft incidents had taken place in the laboratories of the university.

21. D(EO)/HKU said that the university had set up a crisis management team to closely monitor the development of the social events and the situations on the campus. It would also raise the security level of the campus when necessary.

Voting on PWSC(2020-21)26

22. There being no further questions from members on the item, the Chairman put PWSC(2020-21)26 to vote. At the request of members, the Chairman ordered a division. Twelve members voted for the proposal, two members voted against it and no member abstained. The votes of individual members were as follows:

*For:*

Ir Dr LO Wai-Kwok (Deputy Chairman)	Mr Tommy CHEUNG
Dr Priscilla LEUNG	Mr Frankie YICK
Mr CHAN Han-pan	Mr LEUNG Che-cheung
Ms Alice MAK	Mr Holden CHOW
Mr Wilson OR	Mr LUK Chung-hung
Mr LAU Kwok-fan	Mr Vincent CHENG
(12 members)	

*Against:*

Dr Junius HO	Dr CHENG Chung-tai
(2 members)	

*Abstained:*

(0 member)

23. The Chairman declared that the item was endorsed by the Subcommittee. Dr CHENG Chung-tai and Dr Junius HO requested that the item (i.e. PWSC(2020-21)26) be voted on separately at the relevant meeting of the Finance Committee ("FC").

**Head 703 — Buildings**

**PWSC(2020-21)27 403IO Fitting-out works for Government facilities associated with Intermodal Transfer Terminal Project at Hong Kong International Airport**

24. The Chairman advised that the proposal (i.e. [PWSC\(2020-21\)27](#)) sought to upgrade 403IO to Category A at an estimated cost of \$341.1 million in MOD prices. The Government had consulted the Panel on Economic Development on the proposed works on 17 November 2020. Panel members supported the submission of the funding proposal to the Subcommittee for consideration. A report on the gist of the Panel's discussion was tabled at the meeting.

25. The Deputy Chairman declared that he was a member of the Board of the Airport Authority Hong Kong ("AAHK"). He said that the fitting-out works for the government facilities associated with the Intermodal Transfer Terminal ("ITT") project at the Hong Kong International Airport ("HKIA") were not a project of AAHK and were funded through the Administration's funding proposal to FC of LegCo. He would not participate in the voting. The Deputy Chairman expressed support for the funding proposal. He considered that the proposal would help enhance HKIA's intermodal connectivity and create stronger synergy among the major transport infrastructures of Hong Kong (including the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge ("HZMB") and Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link).

Project scope and entrustment arrangement

26. Dr CHENG Chung-tai said that the Administration had the responsibility to explain clearly to members at the meeting its plan to entrust the design and construction of the proposed project to AAHK under an entrustment approach that involved a single managing party. He enquired about the Administration's justifications for entrusting the management of the proposed project to AAHK. Dr CHENG noted that it was necessary for the Customs and Excise Department ("C&ED"), the Immigration Department ("ImmD"), the Hong Kong Police Force ("HKPF") and the Department of Health ("DoH") to be provided with additional facilities at locations such as the ITT building and the staging area of HZMB Hong Kong Boundary Crossing Facilities ("HKBCF") for the new services. However, he questioned if the planning of those facilities could cope with the development of the current epidemic. For instance, he asked whether counters were set up by DoH to inspect transit/transfer passengers for proof of negative Coronavirus Disease 2019 ("COVID-19") nucleic acid test results.

27. Deputy Secretary for Transport and Housing (Transport) 4 ("DS(T)4/THB") replied that the proposed project sought to provide the proposed government premises/facilities so as to enable the relevant departments to operate customs, immigration, quarantine and port health control services and carry out law enforcement duties at locations such as the ITT building and the HKBCF staging area. According to usual practice, the relevant Bureau would seek funding approval from LegCo for implementation of works projects relating to government facilities and the associated works. On the entrustment arrangement, the Administration considered that entrusting the design and construction of the project to AAHK would not only ensure the design integration of the ITT building and enable efficient coordination, but also facilitate the control of construction progress.

28. In response to the enquiry of the Chairman about how the Administration monitored the implementation of the project entrusted to AAHK, DS(T)4/THB said that the Administration monitored the construction progress of the proposed facilities through the existing mechanisms, including appointing the Government's representatives to the Board of AAHK and its committees to closely monitor the relevant work of AAHK. When necessary, the Administration would request AAHK to submit reports on the construction progress of the project.

29. Mr Holden CHOW acknowledged the importance of the ITT project in fostering the development of HKIA. He enquired why the Administration had planned to provide the additional facilities of DoH within the Airport Island area but not at HKBCF, and whether any related facilities were provided at HKBCF currently. He commented that the additional quarantine facilities, if located at HKBCF, could provide service for both Mainland passengers transiting via HKIA and passengers entering Hong Kong.

30. DS(T)4/THB said that for passengers entering Hong Kong, they could go to the urban areas of Hong Kong directly via the customs, immigration, quarantine and port health control facilities at HKBCF. The ITT project, on the other hand, sought to provide a bonded vehicular bridge linking up to HZMB via HKBCF. After completion of the ITT building and the vehicular bridge, bonded bus service would be provided for bridge-to-air/air-to-bridge transfer, allowing transfer passengers to proceed directly to boarding by the Automated People Mover without the need to go through immigration clearance for entering Hong Kong. To ensure the smooth operation of the ITT building, it was necessary for the Administration to provide the proposed government premises/facilities so as to enable the relevant departments to operate customs, immigration, quarantine and port health control services and

carry out law enforcement duties at locations such as the ITT building and the HKBCF staging area.

31. Mr LEUNG Che-cheung was concerned whether the development scale of the ITT building (including its floor area) was sufficient to handle the volume of transfer passengers, especially when the region west of Zhuhai might provide a large passenger base as passengers from the region would likely choose to make international travels from/to the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area ("the Greater Bay Area") via HKIA. He commented that the Administration should review prudently the development scale of the ITT building and plan for its long-term development. Mr LEUNG further enquired about the operating hours of the ITT building and how telecommunication equipment would dovetail with the operation of the building. He also enquired if the newly added quarantine facilities would occupy a larger space.

32. DS(T)4/THB replied that when planning major transport infrastructures, the Administration would allow for sufficient room and set aside resources for future development. The ITT building was expected to have annual passenger traffic of about 3 million from 2030 onwards. Its development should be able to meet the mid- to long-term demand of passenger traffic. Furthermore, the commissioning of HZMB and the intermodal arrangements provided an opportunity for further cooperation among the airports of Zhuhai, Macao and Hong Kong. As announced in the Chief Executive's 2020 Policy Address, AAHK was discussing co-operation arrangements with Zhuhai Airport in order to strengthen HKIA's overall competitive edge in aviation in the Greater Bay Area by enhancing intermodal arrangements and consolidating Zhuhai Airport's Mainland aviation network and HKIA's international network, with a view to complementing each other's strengths and catering to the needs of passengers.

33. Deputy Director (Service Delivery), Airport Authority Hong Kong, added that to support the passenger flight services of HKIA, the ITT building was expected to operate for about 18 hours a day initially upon its commissioning. AAHK would closely monitor the services and passenger demand of HKIA and make appropriate adjustment when necessary.

34. Mr CHAN Han-pan expressed support for the funding proposal. He considered that the ITT project would make the choice of using HKIA for international travels more attractive to air passengers from the western part of the Greater Bay Area and played a particularly important role in providing linkage to HKBCF. He enquired about the amount of additional manpower and facilities associated with the proposed project.

35. Assistant Director (Control), Immigration Department, replied that ImmD required additional immigration premises/facilities in the ITT project area, including the coach kiosks, duty office and computer rooms, for conducting immigration clearance for bonded bus drivers. ImmD was still assessing the additional manpower required for the ITT project. Its plan also included setting up a special task force to conduct spot checks on transfer passengers.

36. Assistant Commissioner (Boundary and Ports), Customs and Excise Department, said that C&ED was responsible for preventing and detecting the smuggling of prohibited articles (such as drugs, arms and ammunition) at entry/exit points. Adopting a risk-management and intelligence-led strategy, it also conducted spot checks on passengers, including transfer passengers. To support the daily operation of customs clearance, C&ED required additional customs premises/facilities at the ITT building, including mainly the baggage examination rooms, personal search rooms and coach kiosks, as well as the offices, case processing room, interview rooms, changing rooms, and standby-cum-briefing room for use by C&ED. As regards the manpower requirement, C&ED would put forward funding proposals for increasing the number of staff in accordance with the established procedure in the light of the actual operating hours and the estimated passenger traffic of the ITT building. It did not have a concrete estimate of the manpower requirement at this stage.

37. Chief Superintendent of Police (Planning and Development), Hong Kong Police Force, responded that HKPF planned to set up additional police facilities in the ITT project area, including the police reporting centre, interview rooms, file storage room and police operation rooms. HKPF would ascertain the manpower requirement in the future in view of factors such as the policing demand, operational needs, operational challenges and the public safety risks of the infrastructural facilities.

38. Chief Port Health Officer, Department of Health, said that to implement health surveillance measures for transfer passengers travelling via HKIA, DoH required additional facilities in the ITT project area, including client waiting rooms, health screening rooms, consultation rooms and the associated ancillary facilities. It also required additional infrared thermal imaging systems for conducting body temperature checks on transfer passengers. DoH would employ additional manpower where appropriate to handle body temperature checks.

#### SkyPier

39. Mr CHAN Han-pan requested the Administration to respond actively to the public's years-long call for opening up SkyPier and take the opportunity

of implementing the ITT project to expand the uses of SkyPier. He said that the Administration should open SkyPier for use by different stakeholders on the Airport Island and on Lantau, which included, among others, AsiaWorld-Expo, Ngong Ping 360 and the Hong Kong Disneyland. Mr CHAN also proposed that the operation of Tuen Mun Ferry Pier and SkyPier, which were in close proximity to each other, be combined to further expand the service scope of SkyPier.

40. Mr Holden CHOW expressed similar views. He pointed out that the local community of the Islands District had over the years called for the Administration to better utilize SkyPier by opening it for use by non-transfer passengers. He suggested that the Administration should provide flexibility in the implementation of the fitting-out/refurbishment works at SkyPier to allow the pier to be opened for other uses. It should also put in place emergency plans, so that SkyPier could be used for providing emergency services in the event of traffic obstruction on roads and the railway.

41. DS(T)4/THB said that he took note of the members' views. However, he pointed out that SkyPier was located within the Restricted Area of HKIA. It was set up by AAHK mainly to provide speedy ferry services for air-to-sea/sea-to-air transfer passengers travelling between Hong Kong and the Mainland. AAHK/the Government had no plans to change the use of SkyPier and the role it played. As for the transport support for Tung Chung, the Administration would enhance public transport services through overall planning and improve the transport facilities at sea and on land between HKIA and the urban areas.

42. Mr CHAN Han-pan further enquired about the reasons for not opening SkyPier for use by non-transfer passengers, the estimated passenger volume of the ITT building, and the expected time when the passenger volume would reach the peak. He asked whether the Administration would consider opening up SkyPier to increase passenger traffic if the passenger volume of the ITT building turned out to be low.

43. DS(T)4/THB stressed that SkyPier served to provide speedy ferry services for air-to-sea/sea-to-air transfer passengers travelling between Hong Kong and the Pearl River Delta region. AAHK was required to operate SkyPier in accordance with the Deed of Security signed with the Government and meet the Administration's security requirements for transfer passengers and baggage. The design and supporting facilities of SkyPier made it unsuitable for use by non-transfer passengers. An expansion of its scope of uses would run contrary to the provisions under the deed and the security requirements. DS(T)4/THB further said that the proposed works included



fitting-out/refurbishment works of the government premises/facilities in SkyPier mainly for enhancing the SkyPier ferry service for transfer passengers.

44. DS(T)4/THB further said that the Administration expected that the annual passenger traffic between HKIA, Macao and the Mainland using HZMB and the ITT building would be around 3 million from 2030 onwards. Upon full-fledged commissioning of the Three-runway System, the annual passenger traffic of HKIA was expected to grow gradually to around 100 million, including some passengers who would make use of the facilities of SkyPier and the ITT building.

Project cost estimate

45. The Chairman noted that the project cost was estimated to be \$380.9 million when the Administration briefed the LegCo Panel on Economic Development on the ITT project and the associated fitting-out works of the government facilities in November 2020, but the estimate was lowered to \$341.1 million under the current proposal. He asked the Administration about the reasons for the adjustment to the estimated cost.

46. Project Director (2), Architectural Services Department, explained that the cost estimate of the proposed project was adjusted downward due to the enhancement of the design and the reduced provision of some furniture and equipment required by user departments.

Voting on PWSC(2020-21)27

47. There being no further questions from members on the item, the Chairman put [PWSC\(2020-21\)27](#) to vote.

48. The item was voted on and endorsed. The Chairman consulted members on whether the item would require separate voting at the relevant meeting of FC. No member raised such a request.

**Head 703 — Buildings**

**PWSC(2020-21)28 72MC Enhancement of Public Health Laboratory Centre**

49. The Chairman advised that the proposal (i.e. [PWSC\(2020-21\)28](#)) sought to upgrade 72MC to Category A at an estimated cost of \$200 million in MOD prices. The Government had consulted the Panel on Health Services on the proposed works on 13 December 2019. Panel members supported the

submission of the funding proposal to the Subcommittee for consideration. A report on the gist of the Panel's discussion was tabled at the meeting.

Biopathogens within handling capacity

50. Mr Michael TIEN and Mr Holden CHOW raised enquiries separately about whether the Public Health Laboratory Centre ("PHLC") was capable of testing the virus variants of COVID-19 and other new viruses that might emerge in the future.

51. Consultant (Microbiology)1, Department of Health ("C(M)1/DoH"), replied that while PHLC was not designed to deal with particular viruses, it was capable of handling any known or unknown viruses. Under the current practice, if a person was tested positive by the COVID-19 nucleic acid test conducted in Hong Kong, the specimen would have to be sent to the Centre for Health Protection ("CHP") for confirmation. Both the Administration and some local universities were now capable of conducting local gene sequencing on the specimens to detect any variants of the virus. Subject to the approval for the funding proposal, the Administration could cultivate specimens of the viruses safely within PHLC so as to support the more complicated testing and research tasks.

Implications on the surrounding environment

52. Mr Holden CHOW was concerned that PHLC was located close to a rehabilitation and healthcare home and a special school, which might pose safety risks to those premises. He enquired whether there were any other similar laboratory centres around the world that were set up near residential dwellings and whether the enhancement works of PHLC would have any implications on the users of the aforesaid premises who were vulnerable persons.

53. C(M)1/DoH replied that PHLC adopted strict safety requirements for its laboratory facilities with reference to the standards adopted by the Australian and New Zealand authorities for laboratory design. For example, the air discharged from the laboratory suite must first be filtered, and an autoclave for decontamination of contaminated waste materials was provided to ensure the safety of the laboratory and the surrounding environment. Project Director (2), Architectural Services Department, explained that the enhancement works of PHLC involved mainly the alternations to some floors and the indoor fitting-out works to improve the associated electrical and mechanical facilities, such as the ventilation system and air-conditional

installations. The implications they had on the surrounding environment were minimal.

#### Consolidation of the existing manpower

54. Mr Holden CHOW enquired about the Administration's plan on achieving synergy through integrating the services of the Public Health Laboratory Services Branch ("PHLSB"). C(M)1/DoH replied that the Chemical Pathology and Haematology Division of PHLSB was currently located in Lek Yuen Health Centre in Sha Tin. A recent case in point was that PHLSB was required to make ad hoc arrangement to deploy staff from Sha Tin to PHLC to help with the deluge of testing work in support of its fight against the COVID-19 epidemic. Upon completion of the proposed works, all the laboratories and ancillary facilities of PHLSB would be accommodated in the same building to allow more flexible deployment and optimal use of the manpower and equipment in PHLC to meet urgent and surging demand for testing services.

#### Other enhancement works

55. Ir Dr LO Wai-kwok supported the funding proposal. He noted from paragraph 9 of the Administration's paper for discussion that further enhancement works in the light of the experience of COVID-19 would be initiated separately upon review. Ir Dr LO enquired whether the enhancement works mentioned in the paper would be carried out in the existing area of PHLC. If so, he asked whether the Administration had plans to revise the current funding proposal for such purpose. The Chairman noted that 13 months had passed since the funding proposal was discussed by the Panel. He enquired whether there was a current need to revise or review the proposal.

56. C(M)1/DoH explained that given the limited space, it was almost impossible to build additional facilities in the existing area of PHLC for further enhancing its testing capability. Nonetheless, consideration would be given to setting up more laboratories to meet the public health challenges posed by COVID-19 and other communicable diseases that might emerge in the future if other suitable locations could be identified. He added that the existing laboratory suite within PHLC was tasked with conducting various tests, including the pathology tests of tuberculosis bacteria and other mycobacterium species. It was also designated as one of the World Health Organization ("WHO")'s reference laboratories for many communicable diseases, including COVID-19. As the existing facilities of the laboratory suite (such as the negative pressure ventilation system) had been ageing and were not up to the standard of Biosafety Level 3 as specified by WHO, the proposed works would enhance its facilities and testing capability.

COVID-19 vaccines

57. Mr Michael TIEN was concerned about the side effects of COVID-19 vaccines. Under Secretary for Food and Health pointed out that as announced by the Administration, the Drug Office of DoH would collect and make record of reports of all adverse reactions after the launch of the territory-wide vaccination programme. The Advisory Panel on COVID-19 Vaccines and the Joint Scientific Committees under CHP of DoH would closely monitor the relevant data and update their advice on the use of vaccines in a timely manner.

Voting on PWSC(2020-21)28

58. There being no further questions from members on the item, the Chairman put [PWSC\(2020-21\)28](#) to vote.

[At 10:19 am, the Chairman pointed out that a quorum was not present and directed that members be summoned by ringing the summon bell. At 10:21 am, a quorum was present, and the meeting resumed.]

59. The item was voted on and endorsed. The Chairman consulted members on whether the item would require separate voting at the relevant meeting of FC. No member raised such a request.

**Head 703 — Buildings**

**PWSC(2020-21)29 189GK Construction of a joint-user building for reprovisioning a refuse collection point and setting up a community recycling centre at the junction between Hung Yuen Road and Hung Ping Road, Yuen Long**

60. The Chairman advised that the proposal (i.e. [PWSC\(2020-21\)29](#)) sought to upgrade 189GK to Category A at an estimated cost of \$189.7 million in MOD prices. The Government had consulted the Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene on the proposed works on 10 November 2020. A majority of Panel members supported the submission of the funding proposal to the Subcommittee for consideration. A report on the gist of the Panel's discussion was tabled at the meeting.

Implications of the proposed refuse collection point on the surrounding area

61. Dr CHENG Chung-tai was concerned whether the proposed refuse collection point ("RCP"), which was subject to height restrictions, would affect

the daily life of residents in the nearby residential area, especially those living on lower floors. Dr CHENG said that many residents in the district were worried that the odour emitted from the RCP and even loose rubbish might easily be carried into the nearby residential units by strong winds. He considered it necessary for the Administration to explain this issue clearly to the local District Council ("DC").

62. Mr LEUNG Che-cheung, on the other hand, commented that while it could be said that it was natural that some nearby residents presently opposed the project, he believed that the proposed RCP, after its completion, would not emit odours causing nuisance to the residents because more advanced technologies had been adopted in RCPs in recent years and the day-to-day hygiene of RCPs had improved substantially. Under such circumstances, local opposition would also dissipate. Pointing out that the Hung Shui Kiu area was in acute need of a major RCP, Mr LEUNG supported the expeditious commencement of the proposed works.

63. Deputy Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Environmental Hygiene) ("DD(EH)/FEHD") responded that the proposed RCP was at least 34 metres away from Hung Yan House of Hung Fuk Estate, the residential block located closest to it. The proposed RCP was designed to maintain negative pressure inside and was equipped with a water scrubber system and air purifiers to remove odours and purify the air. The exhaust air quality would meet the requirements of the Environmental Protection Department. On the building height, the overall building height limit of the area in which the proposed joint-user building ("JUB") was located was eight storeys according to the relevant Outline Development Plan. As RCPs and community recycling centres ("CRCs") generally required higher floor-to-ceiling heights than ordinary residential units, the height of the proposed six-storey JUB was actually close to 40 metres above Principal Datum, which was similar to an eight-storey residential building. The exhaust air outlet of the facility would be provided about 10 metres above the pavement surface. It was also designed to minimize the potential effects on residential dwellings and pedestrians.

64. Dr CHENG Chung-tai said that the proposed JUB was located at a crossroad leading up to a number of housing estates. Many DC members and residents were concerned that the movement of refuse collection vehicles ("RCVs") in and out of the building would pose safety risks to pedestrians and cyclists in the vicinity. Mr Holden CHOW pointed out that many vehicles were parked along the roadside of Hung Yuen Road, Hung Ping Road and Tin Sum Road, making the location prone to traffic congestion or safety risks when large vehicles were driving through those roads. Mr CHOW urged the

Administration to make timely adjustment to the planning of parking spaces in the area to ease the traffic.

65. DD(EH)/FEHD said that traffic assessment had been conducted for the project and the assessment results had been submitted to the Transport Department ("TD") for approval in 2018. TD expressed agreement to the assessment results and the proposed transport arrangements in the same year. Only one RCV would be used for each refuse collection trip to the RCP during non-peak hours. Within the RCP, there was sufficient space for RCVs to completely enter and turn around and RCVs needed not be reversed when entering and leaving the RCP. Thus, no safety issues would be caused to pedestrians and cyclists. As regards the issue of roadside parking in the vicinity, DD(EH)/FEHD said that she would liaise with the relevant departments for follow-up on the planning and law enforcement aspects.

#### Operation of the community recycling centre

66. Mr Holden CHOW supported the funding proposal. He enquired about the types and amount of recyclables expected to be received by the CRC provided in the proposed JUB. Assistant Director of Environmental Protection (Waste Recycling Innovation Planning) replied that the CRC would receive paper, metals, plastics, glass containers, non-regulated electrical equipment (small electrical appliances), regulated electrical equipment, rechargeable batteries, fluorescent lamps, etc. The amount of recyclables recovered by the CRC was expected to be similar to other CRCs already established, i.e. about 10 to 15 tonnes a month.

[At 10:29 am, the Chairman directed that the meeting be extended for not more than 15 minutes and would end by 10:45 am. No member raised objection.]

#### Public consultation on the proposed project

67. Dr CHENG Chung-tai noted that the proposed RCP and CRC were located next to Hung Fuk Estate and the site of a proposed public housing project of the Hong Kong Housing Society ("HKHS"). He said that many residents moving into Hung Fuk Estate had no prior knowledge about the fact that the housing estate was located next to a proposed major RCP. Dr CHENG commented that the Administration should step up the communication with the prospective residents of HKHS's housing project in the future to prevent disputes in the community.

68. In response, DD(EH)/FEHD said that the Government had met with a concern group and the resident representatives of Hung Fuk Estate separately

as early as in November 2016 and August 2017. As stated in the paper for discussion, the Government had also held briefings for and exchanged views with the relevant committees of Yuen Long DC on the project on three occasions between March 2019 and September 2020. After consulting the Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene of LegCo in November 2020, the Government had provided an information paper for circulation by the relevant committees of Yuen Long DC in January 2021. Furthermore, the Government had also relayed to HKHS the concerns raised by Members about the potential impact of the RCP on the proposed public housing project. HKHS would take into account the compatibility of the design of the entire housing project with the surrounding developments in the future.

Voting on PWSC(2020-21)29

69. There being no further questions from members on the item, the Chairman put [PWSC\(2020-21\)29](#) to vote.

70. The item was voted on and endorsed. The Chairman consulted members on whether the item would require separate voting at the relevant meeting of FC. Dr CHENG Chung-tai requested that the item (i.e. [PWSC\(2020-21\)29](#)) be voted on separately at the relevant meeting of FC.

71. The meeting ended at 10:38 am.

Council Business Division 1  
Legislative Council Secretariat  
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