

立法會

Legislative Council

LC Paper No. CB(2)1305/20-21

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Panel on Security

Minutes of meeting held on Tuesday, 1 June 2021, at 2:30 pm in Conference Room 1 of the Legislative Council Complex

**Members
present**

: Hon CHAN Hak-kan, BBS, JP (Chairman)
Hon YUNG Hoi-yan, JP (Deputy Chairman)
Hon CHAN Kin-por, GBS, 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 YIU Si-wing, BBS
Hon CHAN Han-pan, BBS, 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 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 CHAN Chun-ying, JP
Hon CHEUNG Kwok-kwan, JP
Dr Hon CHENG Chung-tai
Hon Tony TSE Wai-chuen, BBS, JP

**Member
attending**

: Hon Michael TIEN Puk-sun, BBS, JP

**Member
absent** : Hon MA Fung-kwok, GBS, JP

**Public Officers
attending** : Item III

Mr Sonny AU Chi-kwong, PDSM, PMSM, JP
Under Secretary for Security

Ms Joceline CHUI Shih-yen
Principal Assistant Secretary for Security E

Mr YIP Wan-lung
Assistant Commissioner of Police (Crime)

Dr Frank LAW Yuet-wing
Chief Superintendent of Police (Cyber Security and
Technology Crime Bureau)

Mr WONG Chi-kwong
Chief Superintendent of Police (Commercial Crime Bureau)

Item IV

Mr Sonny AU Chi-kwong, PDSM, PMSM, JP
Under Secretary for Security

Mr Gavin HO Ka-wing
Assistant Director (Information Systems)
Immigration Department

Mr Sam NG Chan-hing
Chief Systems Manager (Technology Services)
Immigration Department

Mr OR Chung-yuk
Principal Immigration Officer (Information Systems)
Production
Immigration Department

Item V

Mr Sonny AU Chi-kwong, PDSM, PMSM, JP
Under Secretary for Security

Miss Rebecca CHEUNG Pui-ling
Principal Assistant Secretary for Security B

Mr Ryan KWOK Pak-chiu
Acting Assistant Director (Headquarters)
Fire Services Department

Mr AU YEUNG Hong
Deputy Commandant (Fire Services Training),
Fire and Ambulance Services Academy
Fire Services Department

Clerk in attendance : Miss Betty MA
Chief Council Secretary (2) 1

Staff in attendance : Mr Timothy TSO
Senior Assistant Legal Adviser 1

Ms Gloria TSANG
Senior Council Secretary (2) 7

Miss Karena LUK
Council Secretary (2) 1

Ms Kiwi NG
Legislative Assistant (2) 1

Ms CHAU Kwan-bing
Legislative Assistant (2) 7

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I. Information paper issued since the last meeting

Members noted that no information paper had been issued since the last meeting.

II. Date of next meeting and items for discussion
(LC Paper Nos. CB(2)1110/20-21(01) and (02))

Regular meeting in July 2021

2. Members agreed that the following items would be discussed at the next regular meeting on 6 July 2021 at 2:30 pm:

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- (a) Strengthening the prevention and tackling of terrorist activities;
- (b) Smart Customs; and
- (c) The strategy of the Government Flying Service on making good use of retired aircraft.

III. Initiatives for preventing and combatting deception cases
(LC Paper Nos. CB(2)1110/20-21(03) and (04))

3. Under Secretary for Security ("US for S") briefed members on the work of the Police in preventing and combatting common types of deception. With the aid of a powerpoint presentation, Assistant Commissioner of Police (Crime) ("ACP CRM") briefed members on the situation of four types of deception including online shopping scams, email scams, investment scams and telephone deception.

4. Members noted an updated background brief entitled "Measures adopted by the Police to prevent and combat deception activities" prepared by the Legislative Council ("LegCo") Secretariat.

Anti-deception education and the Anti-Deception Coordination Centre

5. Mr Wilson OR said that the upward trend in the number of deception cases over the past years was worrying. He expressed concern about the effectiveness of measures taken to combat various kinds of deception, particularly investment scams on virtual currencies, as well as corresponding enforcement actions. He further suggested that the Administration should make better use of information technology when launching anti-deception publicity work.

6. US for S stressed that relevant enforcement actions were effective. In 2020, the Police detected over 1 000 cases and arrested over 400 persons involving in the common types of deception. The Police would formulate suitable strategies on prevention, investigation, detection and prosecution in response to the ever-changing mode of deception. Chief Superintendent of Police (Cyber Security and Technology Crime Bureau) ("CSP CSTCB") added that despite the challenges on investigation and prosecution involving cross-boundary criminal activities, the Police had been cooperating with various stakeholders to initiate different education and promotional activities, with a view to raising the public's

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anti-deception awareness. For instance, the Police had created an anti-scam mascot "The Little Grape" (its Chinese name "提子" was an abbreviation, meaning to be mindful of scammers) in mid-2020 to disseminate casual and simple anti-scam message to members of the public. Besides, the Anti-Deception Coordination Centre ("ADCC") would analyze the trends of various types of deception cases and the profile of victims, as well as coordinate with various police formations to formulate comprehensive and innovative anti-deception publicity strategies through various channels and platforms.

7. The Deputy Chairman and Ms Elizabeth QUAT considered that the anti-deception publicity strategies effective, in particular the creation of "The Little Grape", which was well received by the public. They called on the Administration to continue putting effort in public education. Apart from "The Little Grape", Mr Michael TIEN suggested that "elderly graphics" should be provided to the elderly to raise their anti-deception awareness. US for S stressed that fraudsters would target all age groups and hence, it was the Police's strategy to set out different promotional plans to disseminate anti-deception messages to all walks of life.

8. Mr YIU Si-wing asked whether consideration would be given to engaging key opinion leaders in relevant promotional activities, as well as cooperating with the Consumer Council to disseminate deception-related information and statistics. He also sought information about ADCC's collaboration with the stakeholders. Mr Tony TSE enquired about the intelligence-led enforcement operations performed by ADCC.

9. US for S thanked Mr YIU for his suggestions. He pointed out that ADCC, which had been set up for less than four years, had received about 80 000 telephone enquiries from members of the public, including case reports and public suggestions. As regards multi-agency cooperation, the Police had been cooperating with the Water Supplies Department to incorporate anti-deception leaflets when sending paper bills. The Police welcomed any public suggestions and were willing to explore other promotional channels, such as cooperating with the Consumer Council, to further prevent and combat deception cases. In terms of stakeholders' collaboration, Chief Superintendent of Police (Commercial Crime Bureau) ("CSP CCB") said that ADCC had been exchanging intelligence with the Securities and Futures Commission ("SFC"), the Insurance Authority, the Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants, etc, and working with different non-governmental organizations, with a view to disseminating anti-deception messages to all walks of life.

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10. The Deputy Chairman cited her experience calling the "Anti-Scam Helpline 18222", and sought information about ADCC's workflow, as well as measures taken to reinforce the combat against deception. While commending Police's professionalism in investigating deception cases, Mr CHAN Han-pan expressed concern about the complicated procedure for victims to retrieve fraudulent payments.

11. CSP CCB explained that for ongoing deception reported via the "Anti-Scam Helpline", ADCC would immediately notify police officers in the relevant region, who would be present at the scene at once to assist the victim concerned. For suspected deception cases, ADCC would provide anti-deception advice to callers, so as to effectively prevent potential deception. ACP CRM further said that when fraudulent payments were found under a suspected bank account, ADCC would first notify the bank concerned to intercept payments. According to the established mechanism, retrieving fraudulent payments had to be applied through civil procedures. Meanwhile, the Police would actively cooperate with the local banking sector and the Department of Justice, with a view to retrieving payments as early as possible.

12. Mr Michael TIEN sought information on the number of deception cases identified by frontline financial institution staff. ACP CRM said that both ADCC and CCB had been providing talks and workshops for frontline staff in the financial industry to enhance their capabilities in identifying suspected deception cases. Specifically, frontline staff had helped identify some suspected cases, reported to ADCC and successfully assisted in intercepting fraudulent payments. US for S further said that deception accounted for 8% in the overall crime figure in 2011, and increased to 25% in 2020. Despite the challenges posed by the upward trend of deception cases, the Government would not hesitate to put resources to combat the crime in a more effective manner. Particularly, US for S emphasized the importance of enhancing public anti-deception awareness and timely interception of fraudulent payments. As long as victims reported deception cases to the Police or ADCC, the stop-payment mechanism would immediately be activated.

13. Mr LEUNG Che-cheung, Mr SHIU Ka-fai, Mr Tony TSE and Dr Junius HO commended ADCC's effective performance since its establishment. Mr SHIU and Dr HO further suggested strengthening the promotion of the "Anti-Scam Helpline 18222". The Deputy Chairman said that consideration should be given to encouraging members of the public to make enquiries to the "Anti-Scam Helpline" when necessary. US for S noted members' suggestions.

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14. Mr CHAN Chun-ying said that according to a survey conducted by an international network company, 73% of persons working from home had not received any training on cyber security. He asked whether consideration would be given to cooperating with the business sector to raise employees' awareness of cyber security. CSP CSTCB said that the Police had been launching various public education activities, such as phishing drill exercises, talks, online seminars, various promotional campaigns, etc, to raise cyber security awareness in the business sector as well as members of the public.

Investment scams

15. Dr Priscilla LEUNG expressed concern about investment scams and online crowdfunding activities, and asked about the measures taken by the Police to prevent and combat these kinds of illegal acts, in particular with the use of information technology. US for S drew to the attention of members that the Financial Investigation Division under the Narcotics Bureau had recently conducted arrests on two cases relating to online crowdfunding. CSP CCB added that, while crowdfunding activities were not illegal in Hong Kong, the Police would investigate and prosecute relevant activities involving money laundering and frauds in accordance with the existing laws and regulations. Furthermore, the Investment Fraud Focus Group under CCB would monitor any unusual investment activities, as well as exchange information and intelligence with SFC. In March and April 2021, CCB had arrested syndicates involving in "ramp and dump" investment scams.

16. Dr Junius HO was concerned about the freezing of assets of securities firms involved in the "ramp and dump" investment scams. CSP CCB clarified that only funds suspected to be relating to investment scams would be frozen.

17. Mr CHAN Han-pan and Ms Elizabeth QUAT were concerned about the recent fraudulent SMS messages from banks urging members of the public to check up payee information via a specific link, in which they were asked to input their bank account numbers and passwords. Ms QUAT said that consideration should be given to reminding members of the public to stay alert through SMS messages (i.e. the same channel as fraudulent messages were received). US for S said that CSTCB had been closely monitoring the situation of phishing emails/messages, as well as reminding members of the public to stay alert and not to fall prey to deception.

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18. Ms Alice MAK said that 458 deception cases involving financial intermediaries, investment, romance scams and employment frauds were received by her office in the past four years. Victims incurred losses totaling some HK\$0.5 billion. Notably, investment scams had become more common in the past year. She was of the view that the Police should set out different strategies to minimize the chance of members of the public falling prey to different scams. For instance, combatting doxxing acts through legislation to prevent the theft of personal data, performing undercover police operations, as well as enhancing public education. Ms Elizabeth QUAT also held the view that undercover police operations should be conducted to investigate financial intermediary deception and employment frauds. Dr Junius HO expressed a similar view, adding that there might be "insiders" in the financial industry seeking potential victims. US for S thanked members for their suggestions and undertook to follow up after the meeting.

Telephone deception

19. The Deputy Chairman and Dr CHENG Chung-tai expressed concern about the upward trend of telephone deception cases in 2020, in particular "pretend officials" and "guess who" cases. The Deputy Chairman said that the number of telephone deception cases had substantially increased by 84% from 2019 to 2020. Dr CHENG sought information about the fraudsters' strategies and asked about the measures put in place by the Police to tackle the problem.

20. US for S stressed that the Police would strive to protect members of the public from suffering losses. According to the Administration's paper, among the victims suffering monetary losses in "pretend officials" cases, 45% were aged 30 or below, and about 30% were aged 61 or above. These figures had implied that fraudsters would target all age groups. In view of the ever-changing mode of telephone deception, the Police would keep abreast of the times, adopt new practice and explore the use of technology to combat the problem. Dr CHENG urged the Administration to formulate a broad variety of promotional strategies for telephone deception targeting all age groups.

21. Mr SHIU Ka-fai noted with concern about the fraudulent calls which were made from outside Hong Kong, and sought information on the measures taken by the Police to block these bogus telephone calls. Mr Michael TIEN suggested that relevant departments should collaborate with telecommunication operators to conduct investigations accordingly. US for S pointed out that, to help the public identify fraudulent calls, the

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Police and the Office of the Communications Authority had cooperated and required the insertion of a "+" sign in the calling number display of mobile phones as a prefix for all incoming calls originating from outside Hong Kong. The Police would strengthen relevant publicity to raise public awareness and alert. US for S further drew to the attention of members that among the deception cases, business email scams caused the greatest amount of losses. As such, the Police would also strengthen their work in this aspect.

Manpower support and relevant penalty imposed

22. Mr CHAN Kin-por and Mr LEUNG Che-cheung were concerned about the upward trend of deception cases. Mr CHAN said that the situation might be even worsened owing to the rapid development of technology. To effectively combat deception, they considered that the manpower support in the Police and the penalty imposed on fraudsters were equally important. Mr Paul TSE expressed a similar view. They sought information in these regards.

23. US for S said that over the past three years, 26 additional posts were created in ADCC. The Police had also re-distributed the duties of 13 posts, which resulted in a total of 39 posts responsible for handling enquiries and stop-payment mechanism in ADCC. Besides, different police formations would take part in the investigation and prevention of deception cases, including CSTCB, CCB, the Crime Prevention Bureau, the Public Relations Branch and the Financial Investigation Division under Narcotics Bureau. In the last financial year, 89 additional posts were created under CSTCB. US for S further pointed out that, any person who committed the offence of fraud under section 16A of the Theft Ordinance (Cap. 210) was liable to imprisonment for up to 14 years. In some of the cases, application had been made to the court for a more severe sentence pursuant to section 27 of the Organized and Serious Crimes Ordinance (Cap. 455), resulting in enhanced imprisonment ranging from 17 to 63 months (i.e. over five years). The deterrence effect was considered to be sufficient. Mr Paul TSE, however, was of the view that the penalty was too lenient and suggested a review.

Other issues

24. Mr CHAN Chun-ying was concerned about the handling of cross-boundary scam syndicates upon the termination of juridical assistance and surrender of fugitive offender arrangements between Hong

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Kong and some jurisdictions since the "anti-extradition amendment bill" incidents in 2019. US for S expressed regret over the matter and said that such kind of bilateral arrangements sought to effectively fight cross-boundary crimes and if failed to operate, it would only be beneficial to criminals. US for S stressed that such unfair treatment would not undermine the Government's determination to safeguard national security. As usual, the Government would continue to cooperate and conduct joint operations with other members under the International Criminal Police Organization ("the INTERPOL") to fight cross border crimes. Notably, ADCC had set up the "International Stop-Payment Mechanism" with the INTERPOL in 2019 to combat cross-border deception, and had successfully intercepted HK\$50 million in 45 deception cases.

25. Mr Tony TSE was concerned about the impact of tightening the criteria on the provision of "netizen" information to the Hong Kong Police Force as claimed by some overseas organizations. CSP CSTCB said that both internet service providers and social media service providers played a key role in the investigation of cybercrimes and tracing suspects. Without their cooperation, the Police could only indirectly locate the suspects through the INTERPOL or other stakeholders.

26. Mr Paul TSE sought information on the proportion of scams involving overseas criminal syndicates. US for S responded that a majority of telephone and email scams related to cross-boundary syndicates. For online shopping scams and investment scams, about 80 to 90% of the cases were local-based.

IV. Enhancement of services by the Immigration Department through better use of digital technology in the epidemic
(LC Paper No. CB(2)1110/20-21(05))

Use of digital technology for service enhancement

Electronic and contactless payment

27. Ms Elizabeth QUAT commended the Immigration Department ("ImmD") in making a wider use of digital technology for service enhancement. She asked whether consideration would be given to introducing other payment systems at ImmD's electronic platform to further facilitate members of the public. Mr YIU Si-wing asked about the publicity plan to raise public awareness of the use of electronic and contactless payment.

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28. US for S advised that ImmD's electronic platform had been supporting the mobile apps of 18 banks (including major banks) and six e-wallet operators. ImmD would continue exploring other payment systems as appropriate. Assistant Director (Information Systems), ImmD ("AD(IS)/ImmD") added that ImmD had implemented electronic and contactless payment means for applications of identity cards and travel documents so far. By the fourth quarter of 2021, ImmD would launch electronic and contactless payment means to pay fees relating to births, deaths and marriage registration, visa or entry permit applications, and Chinese nationality applications at Immigration Offices, meaning that all the payment services of ImmD would support electronic and contactless payment.

Contactless e-Channel

29. Mr YIU Si-wing was concerned about the privacy issues associated with the use of the contactless e-Channels which employed facial recognition technology. He asked whether Hong Kong residents would be allowed to choose whether or not to use the contactless e-Channels.

30. Mr Holden CHOW sought information about the time saved for immigration clearance with the use of the contactless e-Channels, as well as the future plan in promoting a wider use of the technology.

31. AD(IS)/ImmD said that Hong Kong residents were free to choose whether to use the contactless e-Channels which employed facial recognition technology. Eligible Hong Kong residents could enroll the use of the contactless e-Channels through ImmD mobile app or at various control points when performing immigration clearance. Based on ImmD's assessment, self-service immigration clearance using facial recognition technology would be at least one second faster than using existing fingerprint verification. More importantly, contactless e-Channels would enable members of the public to reduce contact with shared equipment during self-service immigration clearance, resulting in a more efficient, convenient and hygienic immigration clearance service.

32. Mr CHAN Chun-ying was concerned about the reliability of the facial recognition technology and relevant back-up arrangement in case of system failure. Chief Systems Manager (Technology Services), ImmD said that the current facial recognition technology was mature with reliability rate over 99%.

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33. Mr Tony TSE expressed support for ImmD's service enhancement through better use of digital technology and called on the Administration to be more proactive in this regard. He pointed out that the adoption of facial recognition technology had been mandatory for immigration clearance as a counter-terrorism measure in some overseas countries, and asked whether consideration would be given to making facial verification a compulsory requirement for immigration clearance in Hong Kong.

34. AD(IS)/ImmD said that the contactless e-Channels which employed facial recognition technology would be gradually launched starting from the end of 2021 at all control points. The contactless e-Channels would be installed at the Hong Kong International Airport, the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge and the Shenzhen Bay Port in the first phase. He further said that some other countries, including Australia, Germany, Japan, the United Kingdom and Portugal, had adopted the use of facial recognition technology for immigration clearance. As for Hong Kong, visitors holding eligible passports could use the e-Channels which employed facial recognition technology to perform self-service departure clearance without prior enrolment following the launch of the "Smart Departure" in 2017. AD(IS)/ImmD stressed that at present, all personal data collected during the immigration clearance process would be deleted upon completion of the immigration clearance in accordance with relevant privacy provisions.

"Smart Renewal" service for foreign domestic helpers

35. Ms Elizabeth QUAT was concerned about the problem of job-hopping by foreign domestic helpers ("FDHs"), and enquired whether the "Smart Renewal" service for FDHs would be able to monitor their job-hopping situation.

36. AD(IS)/ImmD said that ImmD had set up a special duties team in June 2013 to combat the problem of job-hopping by FDHs. ImmD would, when assessing visa applications, refer suspected cases to the special duties team for investigation. In 2020 to 2021, the special duties team investigated 2 608 cases and rejected 796 visa applications (a substantial increase of 262% as compared to 220 rejected applications in 2018 to 2019). Besides, ImmD and the Labour Department conducted a joint operation in March 2021 to inspect relevant employment agencies and remind them not to encourage or induce FDHs to job-hop. With sufficient evidence, enforcement actions would be taken as appropriate.

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e-Visa

37. Mr YIU Si-wing was concerned about the visa application arrangement for non-permanent residents or visitors. AD(IS)/ImmD replied that, with the second generation visa system launched by the end of 2021, application for all types of visas could be processed through online services or ImmD mobile app.

Other issues

38. Mr CHAN Chun-ying asked whether consideration would be given to promoting the use of other Government mobile apps, such as "iAM Smart" and "eHealth", when members of the public were processing formalities at Immigration Offices. AD(IS)/ImmD said that relevant department had liaised with ImmD for such purpose when "iAM Smart" was launched. ImmD would implement such arrangement to facilitate members of the public when the COVID-19 situation improved.

39. With extensive use of information technology by ImmD and incidents involving personal data leakage occurred, Ms Alice MAK expressed concern about ImmD's policy in handling and keeping of personal data. AD(IS)/ImmD said that ImmD had been attaching great importance to personal data privacy. A departmental review had been conducted in which the access authority to personal data was re-distributed. Relevant supervisory review mechanism had been enhanced to minimize the risk of data leakage. Ms MAK called on the Administration to, on the condition that relevant privacy provisions and requirements were complied with, explore a wider use of digital technology in providing one-stop-service to facilitate members of the public.

V. Developing the Fire and Ambulance Services Academy as a regional training centre for emergency rescue and a local platform for community emergency preparedness education
(LC Paper No. CB(2)1110/20-21(06))

[The Chairman directed that the meeting would be extended by 15 minutes.]

Training provided by the Fire and Ambulance Services Academy and public education work

40. Ms Elizabeth QUAT expressed support for the development of the Fire and Ambulance Services Academy ("FASA") as a regional training

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centre for emergency rescue and a local platform for community emergency preparedness education. In view of the popularity of mountain activities amid the COVID-19 pandemic resulting in higher occurrence of hiking incidents, she asked about the training provided by FASA in strengthening members of the Fire and Ambulance streams in the Fire Services Department ("FSD") on up-to-dated knowledge about mountain rescue operations, as well as relevant public education strategy to enhance safety awareness in mountain activities.

41. US for S advised that FSD had set up an additional Mountain Search and Rescue Team ("MSRT") following the discussion of the item "Mountain rescue strategy and high angle rescue operations" at the Panel meeting in March 2018, resulting in a total of seven teams comprising 220 members for the time being. To further strengthen operational efficiency, FSD had also introduced unmanned aircraft and search and rescue dogs to assist in mountain search operations. Acting Assistant Director (Headquarters), FSD ("AgAD(HQ)/FSD") added that all MSRT members were required to attend regular refresher sessions every two months to maintain the required professional standard. Apart from MSRT, the High Angle Rescue Team comprising members with internationally recognized qualification would also be deployed to enhance the efficiency of mountain rescue operations. As for public education, FSD had been providing safety information about mountain activities on its website and social media platforms. FSD had also encouraged members of the public to install the Security Bureau mobile app Safeguard HK, so as to facilitate the emergency rescue party to locate a user with the system's records in rescue operations in case of any accidents. Ms QUAT called on the Administration to further strengthen public education in this aspect.

42. Dr Junius HO asked whether consideration would be given to exploring the use of solo flight under challenging search and rescue circumstances, as well as the application of missile in fire-fighting in high-rise landscape. AgAD(HQ)/FSD replied that FSD had been monitoring the development of latest technology in fire-fighting and emergency rescue services, as well as exploring the use of novel technology with local universities and scientific research companies. Suitable technology would be introduced as and when appropriate.

43. Mr YIU Si-wing was concerned about FASA's standard as compared to other similar organizations in the region, as well as its cooperation and training with the Mainland counterparts. Mr CHAN Chun-ying asked whether consideration would be given to inviting Mainland experts to conduct training on national affairs at FASA.

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44. AgAD(HQ)/FSD responded that FASA had been arranging exchange programmes and experience sharing sessions with the Mainland counterparts on various aspects, including national affairs. These activities were believed to be beneficial to both parties. Among the training facilities in FASA, AgAD(HQ)/FSD highlighted the Compartment Fire Behaviour Training Simulator, which was the largest of its kind in the world and usually one of the specified training items for Mainland counterparts when they visited FASA. Besides, FASA had strengthened the training on national affairs and the Basic Law for all new recruits at the 26-week-foundation training period. Regular assessment was conducted to ensure the understanding of relevant knowledge.

45. Mr CHAN Chun-ying was concerned about the role of FASA when there were drills/trainings jointly conducted by FSD and the Police. US for S said that FSD and the Police had all along been working closely. During the "black violence" incidents, particularly, FSD had provided several training sessions to the Police on first-aid knowledge and the application of fire-extinguishers. The training sessions were mainly conducted at FASA or some police stations.

46. Mr YIU Si-wing asked about the usage of the Fire and Ambulance Services Education Centre cum Museum ("FASECM") and whether consideration would be given to making it a spot for local tour. AgAD(HQ)/FSD said that FASECM was a public education facility open to the public by individuals or group appointment (group visits were currently suspended due to the COVID-19 outbreak). FASECM was very popular and the reservation quota was always full. Since its opening, over 200 000 visitors had been recorded.

Other issues

47. While expressing support for the development of FASA as a regional training centre for emergency rescue and a local platform for community emergency preparedness education, Ms Alice MAK was concerned about the remuneration of and ancillary equipment provided to the frontline FSD staff. AgAD(HQ)/FSD said that FSD had kept an eye on the international development of relevant equipment and protective materials, and committed to sourcing appropriate equipment for frontline staff members.

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48. Dr Junius HO expressed concern about the political stance of FSD staff members and issues relating to oath-taking requirement. US for S said that FSD had been supporting the Government's work on all fronts and its work was well recognized. Members of FSD had all along been dedicating to their duties and delivering services of the best quality to the Hong Kong community. He further said that out of the 129 civil servants who neglected or refused to duly sign and return the declaration, 16 of them were disciplined services officers.

49. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 4:33 pm.

Council Business Division 2
Legislative Council Secretariat
15 July 2021