

Minutes of 123rd Meeting of Environmental Campaign Committee

Date : 18 May 2011 (Wednesday)

Time : 2:30 pm

Venue : Conference Room, 33/F, Revenue Tower, 5 Gloucester Road, Hong Kong

Present

Professor LUNG Ping-ye, David, SBS, JP (Chairman)

Professor WONG Woon-chung, Jonathan (Vice-Chairman)

Mr. CHAN Wing-hong, Cary

Mr. HUI Yung-chung, BBS, JP

Dr. LEUNG Man-fuk, Edward

Mr. MA Ching-hang, Patrick, BBS

Dr. MA Hok-ka, Carol

Ms NG Chui-yiu, Jennifer

Dr. Elizabeth QUAT, JP

Professor SHEN Xu-hui, Simon

Ms Bernadette TSUI

Mr. WONG Mau-chung, Max

Dr. YIP Chee-hang, Eric

Dr. YU Yuen-ping, William

Mr. Benny WONG, JP

Ms Betty CHEUNG

Dr. CHEUNG Wing-hung

Dr. CHOW Chor-yiu, Tony

Mr. WONG Pak-ho

Miss Eunice CHAN

Environmental Protection Department (EPD)

EPD

Education Bureau (EDB)

Department of Health (DH)

Home Affairs Bureau (HAB)

EPD (Secretary)

In attendance

Ms Emily LI

EPD

Ms Wynne LAM

EPD

Miss Brenda LAM

EPD

Miss LEE Chi-ming

EPD

Mr. CHEUNG Ka-yu

EPD

Dr. Lawrence WONG

EPD (for Agenda Item III)

Absent with apologies

Mr. LAU Ip-keung, Kenneth, MH, JP

Dr. NG Cho-nam, BBS, JP

Dr. TANG Shuk-ming, Winnie, JP

Ms WONG Sau-ying

Miss WONG Ngou-fung, Helen

Information Services Department (ISD)

Vote of Welcome

The Chairman welcomed all Members to the meeting.

I. Confirmation of Minutes of Last Meeting

2. The minutes of the 122nd Meeting held on 17 February 2011 were confirmed without amendments.

II. Progress Report of the Working Groups/Sub-committees

(a) Awards Committee on Hong Kong Awards for Environmental Excellence (ACHKAEE) (ECC Paper No. 09/2011)

3. Ms Emily LI briefed Members on the work progress of the ACHKAEE as outlined in the ECC Paper No. 09/2011. The Chairman thanked the ACHKAEE for organizing the successful awards presentation ceremony cum launching of the 2011 HKAEE on 8 April 2011. Noting the number of awardees for Certificates of Merit at the ceremony, he remarked whether there would be room to review the number of the Certificates of Merit awarded.

(b) Education Working Group (EWG) (ECC Paper No. 10/2011)

4. Ms Emily LI briefed Members on the work progress of the EWG as outlined in the ECC Paper No. 10/2011. On the progress of the Teaching Kit, the Chairman added that the project would soon proceed to the tendering stage and the Kit would be produced in electronic version on the internet platform.

5. In response to Ms Bernadette TSUI's enquiry on whether the collaboration with Jane Goodall Institute Hong Kong (JGIHK) was a long term arrangement, Ms Betty CHEUNG said that it was a pilot scheme for implementation in five primary schools for one year and views would be collected from participating schools at the end of the programme for evaluation. Mr HUI Yung-chung supplemented that the EWG would monitor the progress of the programme. Members had no other comments and agreed to commission JGIHK to undertake the project as proposed.

(c) Environmental Education and Community Action Projects Vetting Sub-committee(EE&CAPVSC) (ECC Paper No.11/2011)

6. Ms Emily LI briefed Members on the work progress of the EE&CAPVSC as outlined in the ECC Paper No. 11/2011. Members noted that the annual sharing session of EE&CA Projects would be held on 27 May 2011 (Friday) at 2:00 pm in the Hong Kong Science Museum.

(d) Publicity Working Group (PWG) (ECC Paper No.12/2011)

7. Ms Emily LI briefed Members on the work progress of the PWG as outlined in the ECC Paper No. 12/2011. Members also noted that a public event comprising youth sharing on Antarctic expedition and the prize presentation ceremony of the “Low Carbon Living @ Hong Kong” Video Competition would be held on the World Environment Day, i.e. 5 June (Sunday).

III. School Plastics Recycling Education and Awareness Campaign “Recycle-a-Bottle Campaign” (ECC Paper No. 13/2011)

8. Ms Emily LI briefed Members on the background to the School Plastics Recycling Education and Awareness Campaign “Recycle-a-Bottle Campaign” (the Campaign) as outlined in the ECC Paper No. 13/2011. Dr Lawrence WONG, Principal Environmental Protection Officer (Waste Reduction and EcoPark) of EPD, further briefed Members on details of the proposal.

9. Mr. Max WONG supported the Campaign because it would help students to understand the recycling process of plastics waste. Mr. WONG however worried that if awards were granted on the basis of quantity of plastics waste collected by schools, this might unnecessarily encourage students to consume more plastic-bottle packaged products for the sake of winning the competition. Dr. William YU shared Mr. WONG’s concerns and suggested that alternative measurable indicators, such as the overall participation rate of schools, would be more desirable. Dr. CHEUNG Wing-hung agreed with Dr. William YU that the participation of teachers and staff of schools should also be taken into account. Dr. Lawrence WONG replied that apart from the award for the school collecting the most plastics waste, there would be other prizes to recognize achievements of schools such as the best design of the recycling corner and the best promotion effort, etc.

10. Dr. Carol MA suggested and Ms Jennifer NG supported that school visits to the Yan Oi Tong EcoPark Plastic Resources Recycling Center should be conducted before launching the Campaign, hence providing a greater incentive

for students to actively participate in the competition.

11. In response to Prof. Jonathan WONG's enquiry, Dr. Lawrence WONG emphasized that collaboration with Yan Oi Tong EcoPark Plastic Resources Recycling Center would help schools and students to understand more about the proper treatment of plastics waste as the Centre would organize training and visits for participating schools. Mr. Max WONG agreed that the Campaign could help put across the message of source separation of waste to the community through students and their families' participation.

12. Mr. HUI Yung-chung agreed with Members' view and suggested that the administrative work arising from the Campaign should be minimized so as to encourage schools to join the Campaign. He remarked that the messages and objectives of the Campaign could be further strengthened through the promotional and publicity work.

13. On the implementation of the Campaign, Dr. Carol MA asked whether existing source separation bins would be replaced by the bins specially designed for the Campaign. Dr. Elizabeth QUAT commented that three ambassadors per school might not be adequate for promoting the Campaign in the whole school. Dr. Lawrence WONG replied that existing bins would not be replaced. Furthermore, participating schools would be provided with publicity materials and encouraged to design a "recycling corner" for the Campaign.

14. Mr. Patrick MA enquired about the way forward of the Campaign after completing the first phase. Prof. Simon SHEN enquired whether ECC's budget of \$300,000 would be a one-off expenditure. Dr. Lawrence WONG said that the evaluation on the effectiveness of the Campaign would be conducted after the first phase and extension of the Campaign to all schools would be the ultimate goal. ECC's budget allocation would be used to support the opening and closing ceremony and part of prizes.

15. Dr. Carol MA, Ms Bernadette TSUI and Dr. Elizabeth QUAT suggested that similar recycling programmes could be conducted not only in the school sector but also for other community groups and sectors such as the elderly, the foreign domestic helpers and housing estates. Ms TSUI also suggested and Members supported that the ECC could explore the feasibility of collaborating with the Standard Chartered Bank in the annual Hong Kong Marathon by promoting waste reduction and collecting waste plastic bottles at the event. Dr. Eric YIP said that he could assist in lining up relevant contact points when a detailed proposal of collaboration was available. Mr. Patrick MA also remarked that he would help to promote waste recovery at joint school events under the Tung Wah Group.

16. The Chairman thanked Members for their valuable comments and suggestions. He concluded that the proposed Campaign would be a good initiative and suggested a revised proposal could be circulated to Members for endorsement after the meeting.

[Post-meeting note: based on Members' views and suggestions, the proposal had been revised and circulated to Members on 27.5.2011. Further suggested amendments from Dr. CHEUNG Wing-hung had been incorporated into the finalized programme .]

IV. Any Other Business

17. The Chairman remarked that as the EPD had just launched the public consultation on the extension of the environmental levy scheme on plastic shopping bags, ECC could assist to promote the public consultation among green schools and SEPAs.

[Post-meeting note: invitation letters and emails had been disseminated to all SEPAS participating schools in June to promote the public consultation. SEPAs who had encouraged 20 or more school mates to provide views and feedbacks would be provided with an electronic thank-you card.]

V. Date of Next Meeting

18. The next ECC meeting had been scheduled for 23 August 2011 (Tuesday) at 2:30 p.m.. Members will be informed of the details in due course.

19. There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:05 p.m.

*ECC Secretariat
June 2011*