

Minutes of 124th Meeting of Environmental Campaign Committee

Date : 23 August 2011 (Tuesday)

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)
Mr. HUI Yung-chung, BBS, JP	
Dr. LEUNG Man-fuk, Edward	
Mr. MA Ching-hang, Patrick, BBS, JP	
Dr. MA Hok-ka, Carol	
Dr. NG Cho-nam, BBS, JP	
Dr. Elizabeth QUAT, JP	
Dr. TANG Shuk-ming, Winnie, JP	
Dr. YIP Chee-hang, Eric	
Dr. YU Yuen-ping, William	
Mr. Benny WONG, JP	Environmental Protection Department (EPD)
Ms Betty CHEUNG	EPD
Dr. AU Ka-wing, Albert	Department of Health (DH)
Mrs. CHOW DIK Suk-wan	Education Bureau (EDB)
Ms TSANG Pui-chi, Connie	Information Services Department (ISD)
Mr. WONG Pak-ho	Home Affairs Bureau (HAB)
Miss Eunice CHAN	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

Absent with apologies

Professor WONG Woon-chung, Jonathan, MH (Vice-Chairman)
Mr. CHAN Wing-hong, Cary
Mr. LAU Ip-keung, Kenneth, MH, JP
Ms NG Chui-yiu, Jennifer
Professor SHEN Xu-hui, Simon
Ms Bernadette TSUI
Mr. WONG Mau-chung, Max
Ms WONG Sau-ying

Vote of Welcome

The Chairman welcomed all Members to the meeting. He also welcomed Dr. AU Ka-wing, Albert, Senior Medical Officer (Environmental Health and Toxic), who has replaced Dr. Tony CHOW as the representative from the Department of Health.

I. Confirmation of Minutes of Last Meeting

2. The minutes of the 123rd Meeting held on 18 May 2011 were confirmed without amendments.

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

(a) Awards Committee on the Hong Kong Awards for Environmental Excellence (ECC Paper No. 14/2011)

3. Ms Emily LI briefed Members on the work progress of the ACHKAEE as outlined in the ECC Paper No. 14/2011.

4. A member remarked on a high audit fee for engaging a Qualified Service Provider (QSP) which would be a potential disincentive for some organizations to participate in the Carbon"Less" Certificate Scheme (the Scheme) of the HKAEE. In response, Ms Betty Cheung informed Members that more than a hundred Certificates were issued under the Scheme since its implementation two years ago. In addition to the 210 strong participants in the Scheme, the Carbon Audit • Green Partners were another pool of potential candidates for the Scheme. She also added that participants might apply for funding to conduct carbon audits under the Building Energy Efficiency Funding Scheme of the Environment and Conservation Fund.

5. The Chairman mentioned a case of relatively unimpressive performance of a Certificate of Merit award-winning SME company of the 2010 Sectoral Awards. A member explained that Members of the Adjudicating Panels tended to be more sympathetic to SMEs having regard to their resource availability so as to encourage more participation from SMEs.

6. A member suggested that a comparison could be made with past figures for the HKAEE in the Progress Report. It would also be useful if the Progress Report would briefly highlight any complaint cases or cases of feedback.

(b) Education Working Group (ECC Paper No. 15/2011)

8. Ms Emily LI briefed Members on the work progress of the EWG as outlined in the ECC Paper No. 15/2011.

9. A member supplemented that the Advisory Committee of the Teaching Kit would have a meeting with the selected service provider right after the ECC Meeting to discuss detailed implementation of the project. The Chairman thanked him and the EWG for studying the proposals from bidders and conducting the tender selection exercise. A member suggested and the Meeting agreed that the Teaching Kit could make reference to outstanding education plans (e.g. integration with school curriculum or extra-curricular activities) of schools receiving EE&CA funding support for minor works projects.

10. The Chairman remarked that the ECC Secretariat might explore the possibility of organizing training programmes on the Hong Kong Geopark for Student Environmental Protection Ambassadors. He also suggested pitching for more press coverage for the forthcoming Awards Presentation Ceremony of 9th Hong Kong Green School Award to feature green schools with outstanding achievements, their green practices.

[Post-meeting note: to boost up the publicity of the Award Scheme as well as the green achievements of the winning schools, press supplements in two local newspapers would be arranged to feature the lists of winning schools and their success stories. The Secretariat would also explore opportunities for media placement of green schools' achievements on educational pages of newspapers and parents' magazines.]

(c) Environmental Education and Community Action Projects Vetting Sub-committee(EE&CAPVSC) (ECC Paper No.16/2011)

5. Ms Emily LI briefed Members on the work progress of the EE&CAPVSC as outlined in the ECC Paper No. 16/2011 including the updated figures of approved projects and grants.

(d) Publicity Working Group (PWG) (ECC Paper No.17/2011)

6. Ms Emily LI briefed Members on the work progress of the PWG as outlined in the ECC Paper No. 17/2011. In response to the enquiries of a member on the initiative to distribute newly designed waste separation bins to shopping malls, Ms LI said that among the five new designs, the silvery model with languages of different countries was the most popular thus far. Ms Emily LI also said that only few shopping malls had previously obtained waste separation bins under the scheme and hence the issue of exchanging the old bins with the newly designed ones did not arise for the time being.

7. A member said she had come across occasions where staff of cleansing companies mixed recyclables collected from waste separation bins together during the cleansing work. She asked whether some training relating to waste separation and recycling could be provided to cleansing company staff. Ms Betty CHEUNG remarked that a lot of property management companies had already included the proper recyclables handling procedures into the key requirements when inviting tenders for cleansing services. Ms CHEUNG added that property management companies might need to step up supervision of the cleansing service contractor's performance in waste separation work.

8. A member remarked that in many other places, waste was only separated into two types, recyclables and non-recyclables, hence, this could save space requirement for waste separation bins. She also asked if there were any recyclers willing to collect less valuable recyclables such as plastic. In response, Ms Betty CHEUNG said that there were recyclers in the market collecting all kinds of recyclables including waste plastics.

9. The Chairman opined that domestic helpers played an important role in waste separation and therefore training for them was essential. A member considered that the engagement of social enterprises, which usually had a strong network in the local community, could help to enhance the awareness among the public in waste separation and recycling. A member suggested that using transparent waste separation bins might help to minimize the malpractice of misplacing materials into waste separation bins. Mr. Benny WONG thanked Members' suggestions and said that EPD would continue its public education effort to encourage waste separation and to instill behavioural changes.

III. Any Other Business

Promotion Programme on Source Separation of Waste (ECC Paper No. 18/2011)

10. Miss Eunice CHAN briefed Members on the proposal of launching a new campaign under the Promotion Programme on Source Separation of Waste (PPSSW), in collaboration with the School of Design of the Hong Kong Polytechnic University (PolyU), to enhance the design and function of plastic waste separation bins, as outlined in the ECC Paper No. 18/2011.

11. A member agreed that the proposed campaign was a good initiative and enquired whether designated locations of placing the newly designed plastic waste separation bins (e.g. on roadside, at home, in school, etc.) should be specified. Miss Eunice CHAN replied that initially it was proposed to focus the student project on the waste separation bins for use at schools while an open design

competition would allow the flexibility for participants to identify other potential specific uses and to design the bins accordingly.

12. The Chairman opined that it would be important to define specific design problems clearly to make sure that the products would best fulfill the prescribed requirements. A member shared the same view of the Chairman.

13. A member asked for the rationale for collaborating with PolyU and enquired on the reasons for the proposal of asking participants to transfer the intellectual property right of the designs to ECC. Miss Eunice CHAN replied that PolyU was approached to launch the collaboration project since it was the only institute in Hong Kong having a Public Design Lab and a lot of past experience of public design. On the other hand, to widen participation from local design talents, the open competition was proposed to supplement the collaboration project. Miss CHAN further explained that if ECC owned the intellectual property right of the designs, it would facilitate the modification and mass production of the bins in the future.

14. The Chairman thanked Members' views and suggestions and concluded that in view of the time constraint, the engagement project with the School of Design of PolyU would be implemented first. He suggested the Secretariat to further work out the design problems in consultation with PolyU.

IV. Date of Next Meeting

16. The next ECC meeting had been scheduled for 22 November 2011 (Tuesday) at 2:30 p.m. Members will be informed of the details in due course.

*ECC Secretariat
September 2011*