

**Confirmed Minutes of the 257<sup>th</sup> Meeting  
of the Advisory Council on the Environment (ACE)  
on 20 March 2023 at 2:30 p.m.**

**Present:**

Prof John CHAI, BBS, JP (Chairman)  
Prof Kenneth LEUNG, JP (Deputy Chairman)  
Ms Carmen CHAN, BBS, JP  
Dr Sylvia CHAN, MH  
Ms Ada FUNG, BBS  
Mr Eric HO  
Ms Linda HO  
Mr Alex KWAN  
Dr Theresa KWONG  
Prof Alexis LAU, JP  
Mr Simon NG  
Mr Albert SU, MH, JP  
Ms Christina TANG  
Prof Dan TSANG  
Prof WONG Kam-bo  
Dr Raymond YAU  
Dr William YU  
Mr Alan LO, JP (Secretary)

**Absent with Apologies:**

Prof Dennis LEUNG  
Mr Daryl NG, SBS, JP  
Dr WONG Kwok-yan, MH

**In Attendance:**

Dr Samuel CHUI, JP	Director of Environmental Protection, Environmental Protection Department (EPD)
Mr Simon CHAN	Assistant Director (Conservation), Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD)
Ms Maggie CHIN	Assistant Director of Planning / Technical Services, Planning Department (PlanD)
Miss Mavis HUI	Chief Information Officer, Environment and Ecology Bureau (EEB)
Ms Karen CHEK	Chief Executive Officer (CBD), EEB
Miss Sally SHEK	Executive Officer (CBD) 1, EEB
Miss Avynn WONG	Executive Officer (CBD) 2, EEB

**In Attendance for Item 3:**

Mr Terence TSANG	Assistant Director (Environmental Assessment), EPD
Mr Stanley LAU	Principal Environmental Protection Officer (Territory North), EPD
Ms Clara U	Senior Environmental Protection Officer (Territory North) 5, EPD
Mr Chris WONG	Environmental Protection Officer (Territory North) 53, EPD

**In Attendance for Item 4:**

Mr Bruno LUK, JP	Deputy Director of Environmental Protection (Waste Reduction), EPD
Dr Vanessa AU	Assistant Director (Waste Reduction), EPD
Ms Theresa WU	Assistant Director (Municipal Solid Waste Charging), EPD

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Action

The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting and informed Members that apologies of absence had been received from Prof Dennis Leung, Mr Daryl Ng and Dr Wong Kwok-yan. He welcomed Dr Samuel Chui, the new Director of Environmental Protection (DEP), who would attend ACE meetings regularly as a representative of EPD.

**Item 1 : Confirmation of the draft minutes of the 256<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 6 February 2023 (Closed-door session)**

2. The draft minutes of the last meeting were confirmed without any proposed amendments.

**Item 2 : Matters arising (Closed-door session)**

3. As suggested at the last ACE meeting, the Chairman informed that a summary of Members' salient views on the Kau Yi Chau Artificial Islands project including their responses to the two letters from Peng Chau Reclamation Concern Group and Save Lantau Alliance would be sent out on 21 March 2023 to the Project Team. The Project Team would be requested to report progress in relations to Members' salient views when they sought to brief ACE again.

**Item 3 : Optimising the Environmental Impact Assessment Ordinance Process (ACE Papers 3/2023 and 4/2023)**

4. The Chairman referred Members to *ACE Paper 3/2023* which provided an update on the review results and recommendations on the amendments of Schedules 2 and 3 of the Environmental Impact Assessment Ordinance (EIAO), and the

Technical Memorandum on EIA process (EIAO-TM) and to seek Members' advice on the recommendations of the EIAO process and relevant enhancement initiatives. A background note on the subject (*ACE Paper 4/2023*) had been circulated to Members before the meeting.

5. A Member declared that he was the Vice President of the Hong Kong Institute of Qualified Environmental Professionals which advocated the professionalisation of environmental experts and personnel as part of the EIAO review. The Chairman considered that there was no major relevance with the subject matter and the Member could continue to stay and participate in the discussion.

6. The Chairman informed Members that two concern groups, namely Hong Kong Bird Watching Society and the Kadoorie Farm and Botanic Garden, had sent in letters to the ACE expressing its views on the agenda item. The letters and EPD's responses on the comments in the letters had been circulated to Members and the subject team of EPD before the meeting.

*(The presentation team joined the meeting at this juncture.)*

### **Presentation cum Question-and-Answer Session (Open session)**

7. With the aid of a PowerPoint presentation, Dr Samuel Chui briefed Members on the background of the EIAO review, proposed amendments of EIAO and the TM as well as enhancement initiatives.

#### *Objectives*

8. Members expressed support of the proposed amendments and enhancement measures. Two Members considered that the proposed amendments should be implemented as early as possible while the details could be fine-tuned continuously. Dr Samuel Chui thanked Members for their support and indicated that the Centralised Environmental Database (CED) as well as the modelling tools for water quality and air quality impact assessment had already been launched and utilised by some project proponents. He supplemented that it was planned to submit the proposed amendments of EIAO and revised EIAO-TM to the Legislative Council for negative vetting in April 2023 and to implement them in around June to July 2023.

9. The Chairman opined and echoed by a Member that the reduction of time required for EIA process was not the objective of the EIAO review, but the positive outcome of the review. The Member was supportive of streamlined procedures with the standardisation of methodologies and utilisation of resources where needed. Another two Members appreciated that whilst the overall timeframe of EIA process could be reduced, the time and extent of ACE and public engagement was not affected. Another Member appreciated that the review and proposed amendments were science-based and that manual work for modelling simulations could be

reduced. A Member remarked that EPD should strive to further minimise the processing time including the duration of detailed design stage. Another Member stressed that the quality of EIA work should not be compromised with the streamlined process.

10. Pointing out that traditional modelling simulations were highly time consuming, Dr Samuel Chui explained that the reduction of overall time required for the EIA process was attributed to the enhancement of modelling tools as well as baseline information provided on the CED, which would save the time required for project proponents to conduct desktop research and literature review.

11. In response to a Member's enquiry, Dr Samuel Chui advised that the new requirements and modelling tools would be applicable to EIA projects in preparation stage. Another Member suggested that EIA projects should bring positive footprint on the environment. Another Member suggested and echoed by the Chairman that the Government should step up efforts to nurture and attract talents on EIA work, which was important to the enhancement of competitiveness of Hong Kong as a whole. Dr Chui thanked Members for their suggestions and support.

#### *Centralised Environmental Database*

12. Members commended the development of CED and considered it useful to enhance the effectiveness of EIA process. Three Members highlighted the importance of ensuring the data accurate, credible, up-to-date and relevant. For the sake of data accuracy, three other Members suggested that EPD should be transparent about the data sources, reference list, data collection date, vetting mechanism and the equilibrium struck between variety of data sources and data accuracy. Dr Samuel Chui shared Members' concern on data accuracy and indicated that EPD would review the data on the CED regularly.

13. While Members appreciated the importance of data validity, five Members opined that it would be beneficial to have wider data sources including non-academic sources such as green groups and projects of citizen scientists. To address the concern of data credibility from non-academic sources, three of the above Members suggested that the data could be categorised by the level of credibility and peer review or vetting mechanism could be put in place.

14. As project proponents would utilise the data on CED in the EIA process, Dr Samuel Chui explained that it was important to adopt a prudent approach with a view to ensuring the accuracy and credibility of data. Initially, peer-reviewed data, findings from government-funded projects and EIA projects would be uploaded on the CED. Dr Chui supplemented that it would be mandatory for government-funded projects, for example, under Environment and Conservation Fund, to contribute data. Two Members suggested that EPD should indicate clearly if the absence of data in some locations was due to the lack of research in the areas concerned. Dr Chui supplemented that project proponents would be required to

identify any gaps of ecological data and conduct ecological baseline survey to ascertain the most up-to-date data in preparing the EIA reports.

15. To ensure accuracy of the data and support the sustainable development of the CED, a Member was of the view that users of private companies such as environmental consultants should be charged for the use of the platform since their use of the platform was business-related while other users such as academic or government-funded projects could be exempted or charged at a lower fee.

16. With the ecological data published on the CED, a Member was concerned about the potential threat on endangered or sensitive species and suggested that there should be access control on the data of endangered and sensitive species so as to protect them. Dr Samuel Chui agreed with the Member and explained that there would be appropriate control on the accessibility to sensitive data such as locations of endangered and sensitive species. Only those with genuine need to make reference to the information, including project proponents and consultants, would be allowed to access the sensitive information in the CED. Mr Simon Chan supplemented that the geographical data of CED was provided on the grid size of 1 km with a view to avoiding the disclosure of exact locations of the endangered and sensitive species. A Member opined and echoed by another Member that the grid size of 1 km might be too large for the purpose of ecological studies.

17. A Member suggested that EPD should leverage on the development of digital technology such as artificial intelligence. Dr Samuel Chui responded that EPD would continue to invest its development. Another Member further suggested that open standard format of Building Information Modelling (BIM) should be adopted to facilitate data sharing and compatibility of different software. The required format such as shareable BIM models (IFC) and 3D GIS Open Format (CityGML) should be specified to do away with any conversion of formats. Mr Terence Tsang thanked the Member for her suggestion and responded that EPD would strive to increase the compatibility of different BIM models with the CED.

#### *Amendment of EIAO and TM*

18. With regards to the increase in threshold from 20 hectares (ha) to 50 ha in Schedule 3, a Member suggested that it would be more prudent to limit the raise in threshold to housing projects which was expected to cause minimum environmental impact. Mr Terence Tsang clarified that out of all the 25 EIA reports approved under Schedule 3 of the EIAO in the past years, about 40% were small-scale residential development projects which did not lead to adverse cumulative environmental impact. The Chairman understood that EPD had already adopted a more conservative threshold since approved EIA reports up to the threshold of 70 ha were small-scale housing projects with no major adverse cumulative environmental impact in the past years. As such, the current proposal to increase the threshold to 50 ha has already provided a safe buffer of 20 ha.

19. Expressing concern on the potential impact on ecologically sensitive habitats, a Member went on to enquire whether ACE could have the discretion to decide whether the project proponents would be required to submit the EIA report to ACE for those projects under 50 ha in Schedule 3. Dr Samuel Chui explained that with the increase in threshold to 50 ha, project proponents of projects under 50 ha in Schedule 3 would not be required under the statutory EIAO process to submit EIA report to ACE for consideration. Having said that, statutory EIA process would still be necessary if the project site wholly or partly within a country park or environmental sensitive areas irrespective of the size of project area. As such, the conservation of environmental sensitive areas would not be compromised with the proposed increase in the threshold of Schedule 3.

20. For projects which would not be required to undergo EIA process, a Member further enquired about the mechanism to protect sensitive species such as *Aquilaria sinensis*. Dr Samuel Chui explained that relevant Government projects are required to carry out preliminary environmental review reports and report to Legislative Council for funding approval, which should, if necessary, include the results of ecological survey and corresponding mitigation plan. Another Member followed to suggest that the mechanism of preliminary environmental review or other mechanisms outside the EIAO framework should be reviewed at an appropriate time with a view to enhancing the effectiveness of procedures.

21. Pointing out the concern of some green groups on the exemption of minor works in marine and country parks, a Member suggested that EPD should provide statistics or reports on the environmental impact before and after the conduct of minor works in order to maintain checks and balances. Another Member echoed with the Member and suggested that evaluation of the effectiveness of mitigation measures should be conducted with a view to demonstrating the improvement of environment. Another Member commended the effectiveness of real time monitor tracking for disposal of construction waste and suggested that it should be set as a requirement in both Government and private projects. Dr Chui responded that EPD would explore the possibility to include the environmental outcomes of EIA projects making reference to the data from the Environmental Monitoring and Audit Programme on the CED.

22. A Member was concerned about the removal of seafood contamination and hydrology impact as one of the criteria in the evaluation of water pollution under the EIAO-TM. Dr Samuel Chui clarified that not only would hydrodynamic and water quality impact assessments still be required after the review, the accuracy of water modelling simulations would be further enhanced with shorter processing time due to the updated water quality simulation system and simulation data uploaded on the CED. He added that the water quality impact assessment was further stepped up with the addition of total effluent toxicity criteria as well.

23. In response to a Member's question on the avoidance approach under EIAO, Dr Samuel Chui explained that impact avoidance remained a priority in the

ecological impact assessment whereas compensation plan should be provided in case adverse ecological impact could not be avoided.

24. As some projects might be put on hold for years after the issuance of Environmental Permits (EPs), a Member suggested that a timeframe should be specified for EPs issued to ensure that the approval conditions remained valid at the time of construction. Another Member suggested that ACE should be invited to give views on applications for variation of EPs so as to strengthen the safeguarding mechanism. Before the commencement of construction works, Mr Terence Tsang explained that project proponents are required to conduct an updated baseline monitoring to reaffirm that the environmental circumstances did not deviate from that the findings in the EIA report. As suggested by Members at the last meeting on EIAO review, EPD had already provided a summary of EPD's considerations in granting variation of EPs on the EIAO Register website.

### *Ecological Impact*

25. With a view to capturing accurate baseline data, a Member highlighted the importance of appropriate timing and length of ecological surveys taking into account the seasonal characteristics and critical behavioural pattern of the species. Dr Samuel Chui responded that the proposed optimal time and frequency for conducting ecological baseline survey was devised with the expert advice of AFCD. Mr Simon Chan advised that the duration of ecological survey ranged from 6 to 12 months, depending on the diversity of habitats, presence of species with marked seasonal characteristics as well as scale and complexity of the project. The provision of clear guidelines on the timing and frequency of ecological survey in the TM would contribute to standardisation of methodology for different EIA projects and avoid potential disputes.

26. In view of the climate change impact on seasonal characteristics and behavioural pattern of species, a Member suggested with the support of another Member that the guidelines on timing and length of ecological surveys should be reviewed every two years. Dr Samuel Chui responded that EPD and AFCD would keep in view of the seasonality of species to periodically review the TM and relevant guidelines as and when appropriate. Mr Terence Tsang supplemented that there would be flexibility to adjust the timing and frequency of ecological survey of each EIA project by including the requirement in the EIA Study Brief concerned.

27. Pointing out the ineffectiveness of some conventional compensation measures such as the release of fish fry in open sea, a Member suggested and echoed by another Member that effective and innovative on-site or off-site compensation measures should be considered with reference to the experiences of other places. Dr Samuel Chui agreed with the two Members and would take into account their suggestion.

*Climate Change and Carbon Emissions Impact*

28. A Member suggested that impact assessment of climate change and carbon emissions should be included in the EIA process. Dr Samuel Chui explained that in Hong Kong, EPD was obligated under the EIAO to provide an objective impact assessment with well-established standards to ensure that EIA reports would only be approved if they could comply with specific requirements and standards. However, there was no established international standards on the criteria to evaluate carbon emissions or climate change impact and thus it would not be feasible to include climate change and carbon emissions impact assessment in the EIA process. This notwithstanding, Dr Chui stressed the Government attached great importance to carbon emissions and climate change impact and had set out a target to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050. For instance, the Government would strive to develop carbon-neutral communities in major development projects such as the Artificial Islands in the Central Waters as well as the Northern Metropolis projects.

29. A Member sought information on references of impact assessment for carbon emissions and climate change in other economies. Mr Terence Tsang shared that although some other economies had put in place mechanism to evaluate carbon emissions and climate change impacts, an objective approval standard or criteria was not required. He supplemented that Government and major private developers would conduct environmental review or carbon audits outside the EIAO mechanism.

30. Noting the lack of objective standards to evaluate impact of climate change and carbon emissions, three Members suggested that the project proponents should be strongly encouraged to submit their mitigation plan as supplementary information for reference even though it might not form part of the approval criteria. Another Member trusted that the Government would exert great efforts to minimise carbon emissions with other policy tools and measures. Another Member suggested that the Government could compile and publish regular report on climate change mitigation so as to keep the public informed. Highlighting Members' concern on climate change impact and carbon emission, the Chairman remarked the importance of project proponents' early preparation to address these issues.

*Light Impact*

31. A Member suggested that the assessment of light impact should be included in the ecological survey, especially for habitats with light sensitive species such as fireflies. Another Member added that the shading impact on wildlife species should be included as well. Dr Samuel Chui responded that the light impact and light shade impact assessment criteria would be included in the relevant guidelines. Mr Terence Tsang supplemented that additional requirement such as shading impact could be added to the project-specific EIA Study Brief based on the environmental concern of each project site.



*Publicity and Public Education*

32. With a view to soliciting public support, a Member highlighted the importance of publicity and public education to facilitate understanding of the public on the changes in the EIA process and the relevant considerations. Given the technical complexity, another Member suggested that the proposed amendments of the TM and EIAO should be presented in table format. Another Member further suggested that EPD should establish environmental resource centre to provide briefings on EIA work. A Member reminded that the reasons for the reduction of time such as the enhanced modelling simulations should be communicated to the public clearly. Another Member added that the enhancement result should be presented to the public with the support of data. As some of the enhancement measures such as the CED had already been launched, one of the above Members considered that publicity and public education should commence as soon as possible. Another Member suggested that EPD should establish local liaison groups for EIA projects composed of stakeholders in the neighbourhood and local green groups to strengthen communication.

33. Dr Samuel Chui shared with Members the importance of publicity and public education and would follow up accordingly. Mr Terence Tsang supplemented that three-dimensional simulations on the environmental impact of EIA projects would be made available in the future to facilitate the public's understanding.

*Conclusion*

34. The Chairman concluded that Members were supportive of the EIAO review and the enhancement measures. With the experiences accumulated over the years, the Chairman believed that the standardisation of procedures and development of database would contribute to the improvement of EIA work. He suggested that EPD should formulate a plan to regularly review the EIAO in the future. Dr Samuel Chui thanked Members for their support and constructive suggestions and would study the feasibility of adopting the suggestions where appropriate.

*(A Member left the meeting during the Question-and-Answer Session of Item 3.)*

**Internal Discussion Session (Closed-door session)**

35. While appreciating that the public engagement process was not affected in this review, a Member remarked that there should be flexibility to adjust the public inspection period with a view to further minimising the processing time in the future. The Chairman suggested that EPD should devise a plan to review the EIAO mechanism including the public engagement process in the future.

36. With reference to an article published by the Law Society of Hong Kong, a Member pointed out that the EIAO had yet to cover climate change, energy efficiency or light pollution impact. He furthered that light impact was only required as part of the landscape assessment and suggested that it should be included in the ecological assessment to strengthen the protection to species. Having said that, the Member shared with Members that the EIAO mechanism of Hong Kong was considered highly distinguished internationally and remarked that the suggestions of Members would help EPD further elevate its work.

37. The Chairman concluded the discussion and invited the presentation team to take on board the views and suggestions of Members.

*(Two Members and the presentation team left the meeting at the end of the Internal Discussion Session of Item 3.)*

#### **Item 4 : Waste Management and Reduction Initiatives**

*(ACE Paper 5/2023)*

38. The Chairman referred Members to *ACE Paper 5/2023* which reported the waste management and reduction initiatives launched by the Government.

39. A Member declared that his organisation participated in EPD's trial schemes on solid waste management and trial projects funded by the Environment and Conservation Fund. Another Member declared that her organisation was one of the contractors for Tung Wah Group, which was involved in various waste-related trial schemes. She remarked that close to half of the profits of her organisation came from tender contracts awarded by the Government on waste management. Another Member declared that he was currently the Vice Chairman of the Hong Kong Waste Management Association. The Chairman agreed that the Members might stay and participate in the discussion.

*(The presentation team joined the meeting at this juncture.)*

#### **Presentation cum Question-and-Answer Session (Open session)**

40. With the aid of a PowerPoint presentation, Mr Bruno Luk briefed Members on the various waste management and reduction initiatives such as Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) charging, Producer Responsibility Schemes (PRSs) and Plastic Shopping Bag (PSB) Charging Scheme etc.

41. Members were pleased to see the encouraging progress of the various waste management and reduction initiatives. Two Members commended that the implementation of the regulation of disposable plastic tableware had commenced earlier than expected. The Chairman remarked that the success of waste reduction and recycling required the concerted efforts of all Hong Kong citizens.

*MSW Charging*

42. Two Members enquired about the details of the implementation plan of MSW charging including the duration of grace period and assistance to be provided to the needy. Mr Bruno Luk explained that there would be a six month phasing-in period after the commencement of MSW charging, during which the main goal was to educate the public and allow them to get accustomed to the new requirements. To facilitate the needy groups who may require more support to adapt to using designated bags (DBs) for waste disposal, such as residents of “three-nil” buildings and Public Rental Housing (PRH) estates, the initial plan was to distribute free DBs to these residents during the initial stage of implementing MSW charging. This, however, would not be a standing arrangement as it would defeat the objective of driving behavioural change towards waste reduction and recycling. To facilitate the public to purchase DBs, EPD would establish an extensive sales network for DBs comprising supermarkets, convenience stores, pharmacies, on-line platforms, etc. DBs would also be included as a gift item under the GREEN\$ Electronic Participation Incentive Scheme for the public to redeem at GREEN@COMMUNITY facilities.

43. To address two Members’ concern on the enforcement plan especially in the commercial or office setting, Mr Bruno Luk responded that a risk-based enforcement approach would be adopted. Normally warnings would be given first for non-compliant cases but enforcement actions might be taken against repeated offenders.

*Recycling*

44. A Member highlighted the importance of ensuring proper treatment of the recyclables collected and educating the public on it. Mr Bruno Luk advised that there was sufficient downstream recycling capacity to process the recyclables collected. For instance, there were some 40 waste plastics recyclers in the market and it was estimated that only half of the recycling capacity was being utilised currently. In response to the Member’s question, Mr Bruno Luk replied that the Green Outreach engaged contract staff, with most of them young people, to provide on-site support and organise education activities on waste reduction and recycling.

45. A Member enquired about the plan to roll out the newly designed recycling bins, especially in the rural areas. With reference to a direct investigation report of the Ombudsman, Mr Bruno Luk shared that the effectiveness of recycling bins in public places in the urban areas was less than the rural areas. The plan was to gradually remove the recycling bins in urban area and maintain those in rural area, where the recyclables collected were normally better separated

46. A Member suggested that EPD should strengthen the publicity by utilising the data of waste reduction measures such as the community recycling network, which would encourage public participation. Mr Bruno Luk thanked the Member

for his suggestion and responded that the waste statistics of the community recycling network were currently available on the website. He added that EPD would explore ways to strengthen publicity and public participation.

47. A Member suggested that the PRS on Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment should be expanded to cover more and larger home appliances as early as possible. Mr Bruno Luk explained that there was already a plan to include larger home electrical appliances, such as refrigerators and washing machines, in the PRS; however, for smaller appliances, since imposing a recycling levy on their producers may have an impact on the prices of the products, it was more desirable to encourage the public to bring them to the community recycling network.

#### *Food Waste Collection*

48. Noting that food waste collection trial scheme had commenced in PRH estates, a Member enquired about the plan and strategy to motivate residents of private housing estates to recycle food waste. Mr Bruno Luk shared that food waste collection in private housing estates was more challenging as residents might be concerned with the odour problem and the smart recycling bins would take up spaces in the common areas. Having said that, he said that EPD would continue to identify suitable private housing estates to install smart recycling bins equipped with overflow prevention and odour abatement devices.

#### *Regulation of Single-use Plastics*

49. In response to a Member's suggestion on the regulation of single-use plastics, Mr Bruno Luk advised that the Government had devised a plan based on the recommendations of the Council for Sustainable Development published in 2022. The sale and/or free distribution of a list of disposable plastic products would be banned upon the amendment of the relevant ordinance. For example, the sale and free distribution of plastic stemmed cotton buds, inflatable cheer sticks, balloon sticks for parties and glow sticks, umbrella bags, etc, would be banned. Free distribution of certain products such as hotel toiletries would also be banned.

#### *Circular Economy*

50. A Member suggested that the Government should devise policies or measures to encourage producers to give weight to sustainability in the design of products and their packaging. For example, producers should be encouraged to use recyclable materials and improve the product durability with a view extending the life span of products. Maintenance and repair should be encouraged instead of replacement of products.

51. In view of the time constraint and Members' availability, the Chairman concluded the discussion of the item and thanked Government representatives for their detailed explanation and presentation.

*(A Member left the meeting during the Presentation Session of Item 4.)*

**Internal Discussion Session (Closed-door session)**

52. The Chairman sought Members' views to continue the discussion in another meeting or to submit written comments to EPD for consideration. Mr Alan Lo pointed out that it might be a good opportunity for Members to exchange views with EPD during the upcoming site visit to waste management facilities. A Member suggested that it would be preferable to conduct a Waste Management Subcommittee (WMSC) meeting to facilitate more in-depth and focused discussions. The Chairman asked the Secretariat to follow up with EPD accordingly. EPD and the Secretariat

*(Post-meeting notes: A WMSC meeting would be scheduled for Q2 of 2023.)*

*(The presentation team left the meeting at this juncture.)*

**Item 5 : Report on the 157<sup>th</sup> Environmental Impact Assessment Subcommittee Meeting (Closed-door session) (ACE Paper 6/2023)**

53. At the invitation of the Chairman, the Chairman of the EIA Subcommittee (EIASC), reported that *ACE Paper 6/2023* had summarised the discussion and recommendations of the EIASC meeting held on 13 February 2023 in respect of the following four EIA reports –

- (i) Establishment of Fish Culture Zone (FCZ) at Wong Chuk Kok Hoi;
- (ii) Establishment of FCZ at Outer Tap Mun;
- (iii) Establishment of FCZ at Mirs Bay; and
- (iv) Establishment of FCZ at Po Toi (Southeast).

54. Having regard to the findings of the EIA reports and the information provided by the project proponent during and after the meeting, the EIASC recommended the full Council to endorse the four EIA reports with one condition and four recommendations. With no further comments from Members, the Chairman concluded that the meeting agreed to recommend DEP to endorse the EIA reports with the condition and recommendations as set out in paragraph 8 of the *ACE Paper 6/2023*.

**Item 6 : Any other business (Closed-door session)**

**EIA Reports not selected by EIASC for submission to ACE**

55. The EIASC Chairman reported that since the last ACE Meeting, the EIASC received the Executive Summary of the EIA report on “Revitalisation of Tai Wai

Nullah” which was not selected for discussion. The Executive Summary of the EIA reports had been circulated to EIASC Members upon commencement of the public inspection period, with the relevant hyperlinks copied to non-EIASC Members for information. Members were advised to provide their comments, if any, on the EIA report directly to the DEP within the respective public inspection period. Given that the EIA reports had not been selected by EIASC for presentation and discussion, the EIASC Chairman informed Members that EPD would take that the ACE had no comments on the EIA report under section 8(3)(b) of the EIAO.

56. There was no other business for discussion at the meeting.

**Item 7 : Date of next meeting (Closed-door session)**

57. Members would be advised on the agenda in due course.

58. There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:33 p.m.

**ACE Secretariat  
May 2023**