

COUNCIL FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Digest of notes of meeting held on 27 July 2009

Date : 27 July 2009
Time : 2:30 p.m.
Venue : Conference Room, 33/F, Revenue Tower, Wanchai, Hong Kong

Chairman : Mr Bernard Chan, GBS, JP

Members : Ms Christine Fang, BBS, JP
Mr Michael Lai, MH, JP
Professor Ho Kin-chung, BBS
Professor Lam Kin-che, SBS, JP
Mr Benjamin Hung
Mrs Miranda Leung
Mr Victor Li
Dr Lo Wai-kwok, BBS, MH, JP
Professor Poon Chi-sun
Mr Sin Chung-kai, SBS, JP
Mr Tai Hay-lap, BBS, JP
Ms Iris Tam, JP
Dr Andrew Thomson
Mr Edward Yau, Secretary for the Environment
Mrs Carrie Lam, Secretary for Development
Ms Florence Hui, Under Secretary for Home Affairs
Mr N M Chan, Deputy Director of Housing (Development & Construction), Transport and Housing Bureau

Apologies Mr Chan Siu-hung
Professor Wong Siu-lun, SBS, JP

In attendance : Ms Anissa Wong, Permanent Secretary for the Environment, Environment Bureau (ENB)
Mr Roy Tang, Deputy Secretary for the Environment, ENB
Mr Eric Chan, Administrative Assistant to Secretary for the Environment, ENB
Mr Wang Yuen, Senior Environmental Protection Officer (Sustainable Development), ENB
Ms Vivian Tsang, Senior Town Planner (Sustainable Development), ENB
Mr Damian Chan, Assistant Secretary (Sustainable

Development)1, ENB

Ms Elisa Leung, Assistant Secretary (Sustainable

Development)2, ENB

Miss Karen Lee, Executive Officer (Sustainable Development),
ENB

For agenda item 3 only

Professor Bernard Lim, Convenor of the Support Group on
Building Design to Foster a Quality and Sustainable Built
Environment

Mr Daniel Fong, Acting Principal Assistant Secretary (Planning
& Lands)3, Development Bureau (DEVB)

Mr S W Hui, Assistant Director of Buildings/Support,
Buildings Department (BD)

Miss Katharine Choi, Principal Assistant Secretary for the
Environment (Energy), ENB

Ms Brenda Fung, Business Environment Council (BEC)

Professor Peter Yuen, Hong Kong Polytechnic University
(PolyU)

Dr KK Yuen, Poly U

Dr Anthony Lok, Poly U

Secretary : Ms Jennifer Chan, Principal Assistant Secretary (Sustainable
Development), ENB

Item 1 – Confirmation of minutes of meetings (16 April 2009 and 26 May 2009)

The draft minutes of the meeting on 16 April 2009 and the special meeting on 26 May 2009 had been circulated to Members for comments. As a Member was out of town and might revert to the Secretariat with any comments he might have on his return, the minutes would be confirmed by circulation subject to any comments the Member and others might have. Afterwards, a non-attributable digest of the minutes would be posted on the SDD website for public information.

Item 2 – Matters arising from the minutes of the last two meetings (16 April 2009 and 26 May 2009)

The meeting noted that the Secretariat would arrange for research into the progress of other places' pursuits for sustainable development (SD) and provide Members with such information in later meetings of the Council. In relation to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, ENB would brief Members on actions on climate change in later meetings of the Council. The Strategy Sub-committee (SSC) would have a brainstorming meeting to help the Council chart out its work plan and priorities bottom-up and for Members to take ownership.

Item 3 – Engagement Process on Building Design to Foster a Quality and Sustainable Built Environment (Paper No. 07/09)

The Programme Director (PD) briefed Members on the progress and way forward of the engagement process. The meeting discussed the proposed timeline and whether there should be a questionnaire or not for the engagement exercise. A gist of Members' views and discussion are as follows –

- At the last meeting of the SSC held on 9 July 2009, there was a suggestion from some members to defer the decision on the questionnaire issue to after the completion of the five regional engagement sessions, and the release of the questionnaire, if any, to

late October 2009, thus postponing the submission of Council report to the Government by one month.

- The public engagement process was a rational one and the views expressed were quite balanced.
- A suggestion was made to consider a new polling method, the Deliberative Polling (DP) developed by the Stanford University, for the public opinion survey.
- The DP option would have time and cost implications, and monetary incentive for people to participate would be required.
- A public survey would serve also the purpose of educating the public and should include an element on the trade-offs.
- A questionnaire might be useful to seek the public views more specifically on certain issues or possible solutions.
- In response to a member's suggestion, the Independent Reporting Agency (IRA) explained that there would be no need to conduct both DP and a general polling as the former was a randomized process, the results of which could be generalised to represent the whole population. Besides, views from the professionals could be tapped from the various professional group briefings/engagement events.
- A member supported slightly extending the engagement process to enable more feedback from the regional engagement sessions and briefings to the professional and stakeholder groups to be taken into account, which would be helpful for the Council's deliberation on the questionnaire issue.
- While a questionnaire would still be needed whether DP or a general polling was conducted, the content of the questionnaire would be different depending on the methodology of polling.
- A member suggested that to save time, the IRA could start drafting the questionnaire while collecting more feedbacks from the public to facilitate the Council's deliberation of whether a questionnaire should be issued or not.
- There was also the suggestion that more time be given to the PD and IRA for further deliberation on the methodology and substance of the survey by taking into account the feedbacks from the regional engagement sessions and other engagement events.

The meeting agreed to defer making a decision on the questionnaire issue to end September 2009 to take account of more feedback from the public. The Secretariat would circulate to Members information on the cost and time implications of conducting DP and the consultants' proposals on the way forward in due course. Members were invited to join the regional

engagement sessions to gauge the sentiments of the community first hand.

The meeting also discussed and decided that a strategy summit would not be appropriate for the current public engagement, particularly in view of the complexity of the subject and the time constraint.

Item 4 – Opening up of the meetings of the Council for Sustainable Development (Paper No. 08/09)

Members were briefed on the proposal on opening up meetings with briefings from the Administration as a first step to enhance the transparency of the Council as set out in Paper No. 08/09. The Administration would give a briefing on the review of the air quality objectives at the first open meeting of the Council.

In response to a member's suggestion of webcasting the open meetings of the Council, the Chairman asked the Secretariat to explore the feasibility. The Chairman also asked the Secretariat to see if resource could be made available for providing simultaneous interpretation for the open meetings of the Council.

Members noted that there would be a press briefing after the open meeting in which the Council Chairman, or jointly with Chairs of the two Sub-committees, would address any questions that the media might have.

Item 5 – Report on follow-up on past public engagements (Paper No. 09/09)

Members were briefed on the progress report on the implementation of the First SD Strategy for Hong Kong set out in Paper No. 09/09. A gist of members' discussion and comments is as follows –

- The Council usually discussed issues at an initial stage when a firm policy had yet to be formulated. Some of the Council's deliberations were subsequently incorporated into government policy such as the Policy Framework for the Management of Municipal Solid Waste.
- While the Council and the Administration might have different roles to play, particularly over implementation, the taking forward of an

initiative represented a continuation of the process.

- The community's aspirations conveyed in the Council's engagement exercises would be translated into tangible recommendations, and actions to follow up on such recommendations, including major consultation on the implementation as necessary, would subsequently be taken.
- The Council's continued interest and effort in promoting the sustainability subjects concerned and its partnership with the Administration to make the necessary changes were valued.
- The Administration would come back to the Council to have an oversight of the subjects discussed or to have an ongoing dialogue engaging each other in order not to lose track of any fruitful deliberation that had already taken place, such as over the issue of air quality.
- Other subjects such as the population policy had been passed on to different bureaux and departments for follow up and implementation as different policies might have different pathways.
- It would be useful to upload the progress report on the Implementation of the First SD Strategy onto the Council's website for public information. This would help keep the momentum of engaging the community, as engaging the public was a unique feature of the Council. It would also help foster partnership as the public would be able to know what had been put forward to the Government, whether adopted or not. This would be useful for the Council in pushing ahead with other strategies.
- The SSC could further deliberate on the Council's role in following through the pilot areas that it had studied. It could also help identify new priority areas for the Council's public engagement.
- Official members could help suggest topics which were relevant to the balance of the three SD pillars.
- Air quality and the built environment were good examples of cross-bureau sustainability issues for public engagement.
- Some members suggested the Council might look at environmental industry/recycling industry and disposal of waste electrical and electronic equipment as possible priority areas.
- SD was a journey rather than a destination and it was many things to many people, so the Council had to come down to tangible things for public engagement.

Item 6 – Report on the work of the Education and Publicity Sub-committee (Paper No. 10/09)

The meeting noted the key progress of the SD education and publicity programmes under the purview of Education and Publicity Sub-committee set out in Paper No. 10/09.

There was a suggestion that the SD Conference could be scheduled after the United Nations Conference on Climate Change in Copenhagen, which could provide more information for sharing with the business sector.

Item 7 – Any other business

Where “CSD” and “SDC” had both been used as the short form of the Council, the meeting agreed to henceforth adopt “SDC”.

Item 8 – Date of next meeting

The Secretariat would confirm with Members nearer the time.

Secretariat
Council for Sustainable Development