

**Summary of Minutes of
the 64th Meeting of the Kwai Tsing District Council held on 11 March 2010**

The 64th meeting of the Kwai Tsing District Council (K&T DC) was held on 11 March 2010. The major issues discussed are summarised as follows:

Confirmation of minutes of the 63rd meeting of K&T DC held on 14 January 2010

2. The above minutes of the meeting were confirmed without amendments.

Introduction of Papers

Minimum Wage Bill

(Proposed by the Labour Department)
(K&T DC Paper No. 13/2010)

3. Assistant Commissioner for Labour briefed members of the paper. Members in general supported the legislation. Some urged a fast action as soon as possible and some preferred more careful consideration. Some members worried that if the minimum wage was too high, employers would hire their employees selectively or make the employees become self-employed. Some other members also urged the Government to establish maximum number of working hours to protect employees from working for long hours, but some disagreed since they thought it would affect the economics of Hong Kong. In reply, representatives of the Labour Department said that the Government would spare no effort working with the Legislative Council on the endorsement of the legislation. A provisional committee had been set up for suggestion and consideration of the minimum wage. The legislation would apply only to employment relationship. As for the standard working hours which was a rather complicated issue, since there had been no consensus in the community yet, the Government had no plan to introduce any legislation.

4. A member criticized that long working hours would affect productivity and bring forth domestic and social problems. Deputy Chairman agreed that the Government should introduce legislation to govern working hours upon endorsement of the minimum wage. Representatives of the Labour Department replied that although the Government had no plan to introduce the standard working hours, publicity and education on rest time, family harmony and parent-child relation would be carried on, and working hours might adjust automatically after introduction of the minimum wage.

Report on the progress of the Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link
(Hong Kong Section) Project

(Proposed by the Highways Department)
(K&T DC Paper No. 14/2010)

5. Representatives of the Highways Department and MTR briefed members of the

paper. Most members urged the Government to explain the details of the traffic arrangement and the vehicle flow at the construction site, the environmental impact assessment in particular the noise nuisance and the affected buildings. Since the traffic in the area was already busy, members worried that the traffic load and noise pollution would be even worse during the construction period. They also wondered whether any consultation had been conducted. A member suggested setting up surveillance stations to monitor the blasting works.

6. In response, representatives of the Highways Department and MTR said that a summary on the environmental impact assessment had been provided to the Council. The MTR would work closely with the Government to reduce the traffic consequences to the least and would also keep reporting to the Council. The MTR would also discuss with the owners and residents to reach a consensus. Consultation had been arranged and surveillance stations would be set up along the rail to monitor the actual condition of noise, vibration and settlement.

7. However, some members criticized the Government and the MTR for conducting “false” consultation only after the endorsement of the provision and only the leader of the village had been consulted. Some members required regular progress reports and other documents in more detail while some others suggested forming a working group for follow-up. Representative of the Highways Department reiterated that a summary had been sent to the Council and promised that two other environmental impact assessment reports and the Rail Link map would be submitted to the Council shortly. He also said that the officer concerned would report the traffic assessment result and the project officer would report the progress to the Council.

Discussion Items

Endorsement of the member lists of the K&T DC Committees and the Vetting Working Group in 2010/11
(K&T DC Paper No. 15/2010)

8. Members endorsed the above paper unanimously.

Endorsement of the co-opted member lists of the K&T DC Committees in 2010/11
(K&T DC Paper No. 16/2010, to be tabled)

9. Members endorsed the above paper unanimously.

Endorsement of the provisions in the “Guidelines on the Use of Kwai Tsing District Council Funds” about the mechanism for local organizations to revise the financial budget
(K&T DC Paper No. 17/2010)

10. Members endorsed the above paper unanimously.

Endorsement of the employment of DC staff by K&TDC (non-civil service contract staff)
(K&T DC Paper No. 18/2010)

11. Members endorsed the above paper unanimously.

Endorsement of the financial budget of K&TDC in 2010/11
(K&T DC Paper No. 19/2010)

12. A member suggested a discussion on the budget for the silver jubilee anniversary activities for its considerable amount. Some members supported the budget and some agreed that the most important was to benefit the residents with some well-organized activities.

13. Members endorsed the above paper and the provision for Kwai Tsing Football Association unanimously.

District Councils' participation in the World Wide Fund "Earth Hour 2010" lights out campaign
(K&T DC Paper No. 20/20010)

14. Members supported the above participation unanimously.

Nomination of a representative to the Customers Liaison Group on Postal Services
(K&T DC Paper No. 21/2010)

15. The Council nominated a member to the above group.

Nomination of a representative to the Hospital Authority Regional Advisory Committee
(K&T DC Paper No. 22/2010)

16. The Council nominated a member to the above committee.

Discussion on the method of ticket distribution of the "Give a Day. Get a Disney Day: 18 Districts Volunteer Program"
(K&T DC Paper No. 23/2010)

17. Some members suggested the tickets be distributed fairly by all members to their volunteers while some preferred distribution of tickets through the Social Welfare Department. Acting Chairman concluded that each member would be invited to nominate not more than 27 qualified volunteers while the remaining tickets would be distributed by the Social Welfare Department.

Handling of calls for assistance in respect of housing allocation
(Proposed by Mr. LEUNG Tsz-wing, Dennis, Ms. HUI Kn-kan and Ms. MAK Mei-kuen, Alice)

(K&T DC Papers No. 29, 29a and 29b/2010, to be tabled)

18. A member requested an explanation in detail on the arrangement of the new guidelines of the Housing Department and the Social Welfare Department, and expressed his concern over the follow-up of cases. In response, representative of the Social Welfare Department said that family splitting, transfer or addition applications would be assessed and approved by the Housing Department at the preliminary stage. The case would be referred to the Social Welfare Department for assessment and comment if it could not be processed under the current housing policy and if the applicant could provide social and/or medical proof. Representative of the Housing Department added that their staff would consider the case at the preliminary stage and refer it to the Social Welfare Department for follow-up action when necessary.

Information Papers

Briefing on public order situation in December 2009 and January 2010

(Proposed by the Hong Kong Police Force)

(K&T DC Paper No. 24/2010)

19. A member did not agree with the Police that late Chinese New Year in 2010 was the cause of the rising crime rate, and expressed his concern over the crimes involving indecent assault, criminal threat and juvenile theft and believed that most of them were related to debt collection. He also asked if the Police would enhance their communication with schools to deal with rising juvenile crimes. Representative of the Police replied that the crime rate was affected by seasonal reasons and usually would climb up before the Chinese New Year. The debt collection cases had been increasing all over Hong Kong. The Police would keep close contact with the frontline security officers and encourage them to call the Police once any suspicious people were spotted. The Police's crackdown on the drug offenders had resulted in a higher juvenile crime rate. A member complimented the Police for providing detailed information and taking action against crimes.

Police's Plan for Kwai Tsing District in 2010

(Proposed by the Hong Kong Police Force)

(K&T DC Paper No. 25/2009)

20. Representative of the Police briefed members of the paper. Two members thanked and praised the Police for their effort in combating crimes.

Kwai Tsing District Youth Anti-drug Community Plan - Let's Fight Against Drugs Together

(Proposed by Kwai Tsing District Office)

(K&T DC Paper No. 26/2010)

21. Members noted the above paper.

Report of the Kwai Tsing District Management Committee meeting held on 19 February 2010

(Proposed by Kwai Tsing District Office)
(K&T DC Paper No. 27/2010)

22. A member asked about the construction of the traffic lights at the junction of Lai King Hill Road and Joint Street while another asked about the removal of banners. Representative of the Transport Department said that they would provide the relevant information as soon as possible. District Officer (Kwai Tsing) said that the removal of banners had been suspended until 26 March 2010 and would inform the Council once the decision was made.

Report Items

Reports of the K&TDC Committees
(K&T DC Paper No. 28/2010)

23. Members noted the above paper.

Report of the K&TDC East Asian Games Working Group
(no submissions)

Any Other Business

24. There being no other business. The meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

Date of Next Meeting

25. The next meeting would be held at 2:30 p.m. on 13 May 2010.

Kwai Tsing District Council Secretariat
May 2010