

**Summary of Minutes of Meeting of Islands District Council**

Date : 22 April 2013 (Monday)  
Time : 2:00 p.m.  
Venue : Conference Room, Islands District Council, 14/F., Harbour Building,  
38 Pier Road, Central, Hong Kong.

I. Visit of Director of Health to Islands District Council

The Director of Health briefed the meeting of the organizational structure and major work programmes of the Department in 2013/14.

A member enquired about the preventive measures against avian influenza (avian flu) (H7N9) taken at the Hong Kong International Airport, and how the services of the North Lantau Hospital would tie in with these measures after it was opened. He said that the problem of smoking inside Yat Tung Estate Market was serious, and he urged the Department of Health to step up its enforcement actions. He also requested the provision of out-patient dental service in Tung Chung.

Another member also requested the provision of out-patient dental service in Tung Chung. He enquired whether the Department of Health would establish a notification mechanism with management offices of housing estates, schools and community organizations, or provide guidelines to them in regard of avian flu to enhance mutual communication.

A member was appreciative of the Department's promotional activities to raise awareness of the risks of hypertension and proposed more activities to be held to enhance awareness further.

The Vice-chairlady said that the above-mentioned promotional activities could tie in with the community to make them more effective and popular. She proposed that Health Centres and hospitals of various districts could co-operate in the long term with Islands Healthy City Working Group and Tung Chung Safe and Healthy (Community Services) Foundation Limited in raising awareness of the risks of hypertension. She also proposed the Department of Health to conduct

community-wide education and establish a working partnership with Islands Healthy City Working Group and Tung Chung Safe and Healthy (Community Services) Foundation Limited.

The Director of Health responded as follows:

- (a) The Department of Health had provided the tourist industry, the Airport Authority and the airlines with information of preventive measures and the most recent situation of the outbreak. Airlines would make announcements on the airplanes and remind passengers to seek help from port health staff if necessary. More staff would be deployed at various entry points to step up preventive measures. The North Lantau Hospital would adopt measures and mechanisms in regard of infectious diseases already in force in other hospitals.
- (b) The Government understood that there was a great demand for dental services and its policy was to enhance the public's knowledge of dental health through education and publicity. There were eleven dental clinics under the Department of Health to provide urgent dental services to members of the public. The elderly or recipients of Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) proven by doctors as disabled or ill could apply for dental allowances under CSSA to pay for dental services provided by non-government organizations or clinics. Health care vouchers for the elderly could also be used for dental care. A three-year pilot scheme was being jointly conducted by the Government and various non-governmental organizations to provide free basic dental services for the elderly residing in institutions or receiving day care centres' services. In addition, there were various support services and pilot schemes provided by the Government or other agencies to members of the public who were in need of dental services.
- (c) The Department of Health would disseminate health-related information to schools through the Education Bureau. The Housing Department and Home Affairs Department would also assist the Department of Health to conduct publicity campaigns and communication through their respective community networks.

- (d) Various Healthy City Groups had been invited to participate in a series of promotional activities to raise awareness of risks of hypertension.

A member asked whether some time sessions could be set aside for members of the public in the Tung Chung Civil Servants Dental Clinic.

The Director of Health said that there was no plan to open any new dental clinic, and dental services would be provided through the various schemes mentioned previously.

A member said that the assistance schemes mentioned were provision of financial support, rather than actual dental services. Many of the elderly had mobility difficulty and thus would favour receiving dental services in the district they resided. He asked under what conditions the provision of dental out-patient services in Tung Chung would be considered.

A member hoped that the message of awareness of hypertension risks would be publicized on various islands in the district.

The Director of Health further responded as follows:

- (a) The pilot scheme for the elderly would last for three years. The Government would monitor its implementation and then assess its effectiveness.
- (b) The Department would study the proposal of conducting publicity activities to raise awareness of hypertension risks on various islands in the district.

## II. Visit of Director of Water Supplies to Islands District Council

The Director of Water Supplies briefed the meeting of the overall situation of water resources in Hong Kong.

A member enquired about the request for water supply for Tai Long Tsuen in Lantau South.

A member requested the Water Supplies Department (WSD) to lay the water pipe supplying water to Nim Shue Wan Tsuen from Discovery Bay.

Another member requested the WSD to supply water to Yi O. He further queried the levy of sewage charge on Yi O and Fan Lau as no sewage treatment facilities were provided for the two villages.

The Director of Water Supplies responded as follows:

- (a) Factors such as development needs and cost effectiveness had to be taken into account in considering the priority of provision of water supply to remote locations. The Department was aware of the request for water supply mentioned above but there had yet been plan to supply water to those villages due to the relative small number of population.
- (b) Generally speaking, the Home Affairs Department (HAD) would provide facilities and the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) would monitor the quality of water for villages using water collected from the hillside. If the water sources ran out, inter-departmental co-operation might be required to arrive at a solution. The existing population in the three villages mentioned above was too small and there was no development being planned, thus water supply could not be materialized yet.
- (c) The Outline Zoning Plan stipulated that water for Cheung Sha Lan and Nim Shue Wan should be supplied from the reservoir in Discovery Bay. Thus the WSD would not be able to provide water supply to the two villages. The proposal to supply water through Discovery Bay was the more convenient one among the options. However, the water supply facilities of Discovery Bay were privately owned, from which might arise the issue of responsibility. He hoped that the problem could be solved through the discussion being conducted between the Development Bureau and the District Council (DC) member of Discovery Bay.

A member said that the problem of Tai Long Tsuen was that there was no water supply and that it was the responsibility of the WSD to supply water.

Another member said that water was a basic necessity and he did not agree with the reason of lack of population for not providing water supply.

A member also agreed that water was a basic necessity and he requested a plan and a time schedule for supplying water to remote places.

Another member said that remote regions would have the potential for development if there were water supply and transportation system.

A member gave a brief history of water supply of Tai O and further said that the small number of population should not be a reason for not providing water supply.

A member said that cost effectiveness should not be a reason for not supplying water to remote villages.

A member enquired whether the WSD had a policy target of raising the percentage from 99.9% to 100% of the people supplied with water. He also asked when Tung Chung would be provided with salt water flushing.

A member urged the WSD to formulate plans and strive for resources to supply water to the remaining 0.1% of the population not yet supplied with water.

The Director of Water Supplies further responded as follows:

- (a) Sewage charges should not be levied on places where no sewage treatment facilities were provided. Residents could apply to the Drainage Services Department or the WSD for refund of payment if charges were wrongly levied.
- (b) The WSD had all along been providing water supply in accordance to planning, and cost effectiveness had to be taken into account in formulating plans. The WSD had no hard and fast population requirements in the planning of water supply.
- (c) The WSD would not be able to provide a timetable of supplying water to remote villages in two months. However, the requests and opinions given by members would be related to the Development Bureau.

- (d) The WSD agreed that the public had the right to have access to water supply, but the extension of water supply network had to be prioritized. The WSD would reflect the special situations of some remote villages to the Development Bureau for its consideration.
- (e) The reclamation at Tung Chung had not been completed. Thus the salt water pumping station planned to be built on the seaside of the reclaimed land had yet been materialized. The WSD was looking for other sources to connect water supply to the area for the purpose.

III. Visit by the Honorable IP Kwok-him, Legislative Council Member of District Council (First) Functional Constituency

The Honorable IP Kwok-him briefed the meeting of the major tasks of the Legislative Council recently.

A member said that high rents and the implementation of minimum wage requirements had cost DC members a much greater proportion of their allowances. He proposed a provision of subsidy for DC members who had to rent private buildings to set up ward offices, using the rent of housing offices of the Housing Department as the base figure.

The Vice-chairlady said that the requirement of 17 000 people for a constituency should not be strictly applied to the Islands District, and hoped that the wholeness of the District would be maintained. She also said that DC members found it very difficult to rent offices in private buildings because of the high rent, and the restrictions on the use of operational expenses allowances for DC members were too inflexible.

Another member gave the situation of Discovery Bay as an example and concurred with the views given on rent and allowances. The restrictions in force were too strict on DC members, thus rendering their operation very difficult. She requested the Honorable IP Kwok-him to relate the uniqueness of the situation of Discovery Bay to the Legislative Council to allow for greater flexibility in the use of DC members' allowances.

A member said that the Islands District Office and the secretariat of the IDC persistently faced the problem of insufficient manpower, compounded by the ever increasing workload. He asked the Honorable IP Kwok-him to reflect the difficulty experienced to the Legislative Council. He also requested for clear guidelines in the printing of professional qualifications on business cards and promotional materials.

The Honorable IP Kwok-him replied that he would follow up on the issue of printing of professional qualifications and rents of DC members' ward offices. In May of the current year, the Legislative Council would discuss the operation of District Councils after the abolition of appointed members and the population of a constituency. He would also reflect to the Legislative Council about the problem of insufficient manpower of the IDC secretariat.

A member said that the division of constituency and administrative region of the Islands District was problematic. He gave the example of workers in the district having to proceed to three different offices to seek assistance for labour disputes to illustrate his point.

A member proposed that the Lantau Island should be separated into two constituencies in future DC elections.

A member said that DC appointed members had made much contribution and thus at least one appointed member should be retained for each district.

The Honorable IP Kwok-him reiterated that there would be a Legislative Council meeting in May to discuss the issue of constituencies and members' opinions would be related to the meeting.

#### IV. Enhancing Land Supply Strategy: Reclamation Outside Victoria Harbour and Rock Cavern Development - Stage 2 Public Engagement

A member objected to the construction of large artificial islands in Central waters citing concerns about marine ecology, the fisheries industry and sea traffic. She requested that the authorities to reveal at the current stage the facilities that would be relocated to the proposed islands.

Another member also urged the authorities to reveal the facilities to be

relocated to the artificial islands, and he queried the necessity of reclamation at Siu Ho Wan and Sunny Bay.

A member also had reservations about reclamation at Siu Ho Wan and Sunny Bay and he was concerned about the flow of water current and the usage of land reclaimed.

Another member said that the reclaimed land at Siu Ho Wan and Sunny Bay should preferably be used for residential purposes. He also proposed connecting the islands by bridges, so as to enhance economic benefits.

The Vice-chairlady also raised concerns about the nature of facilities to be built on the artificial islands. She worried that the islands would affect the fisheries industry, water current, marine ecology and traffic. She said that if there were too many uncertainties, the members would find it difficult to support the proposal.

Another member said that the reason of building up a land reserve would be too abstract, and that there were too many uncertainties in the current proposal.

The representative of the Civil Engineering and Development Department (CEDD) responded as follows:

- (a) The area marked in the map was the sphere to be studied, rather than the actual area to be reclaimed. The construction of artificial island(s) would depend on studies to be conducted about port operation, marine safety, water quality and external traffic connection. It was for that reason details were not provided for the artificial islands at the current stage. Generally speaking, land nearer to the centre of the harbour should be used for residential purposes, whereas land further away should be used for non-residential purposes.
- (b) The reclaimed land at Sunny Bay would not be suitable for residential purposes as it was located beneath the flight path, whereas the land at Siu Ho Wan could be used for residential purposes.
- (c) The usage of land reclaimed was not specified so as to garner opinions from the public and enhance public participation before arriving at any decisions.



The Vice-chairlady enquired about the estimated time for implementation of and duration of the reclamation project, time needed for site settlement and when the land could be put to use. The development of Siu Ho Wan and Sunny Bay should tie in with the bridgehead economy of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge. The development of logistics park should depend on demand. She further raised the concern of stagnant water at the reclaimed area of Sunny Bay.

A member said that the proposal was worth considering only if the artificial island(s) would be connected by land transport.

A member said that he would object to the proposal if the usage of land was not specified.

The representative of the CEDD said that reclamation would be conducted in an environmental-friendly manner. Part of Sunny Bay was not included in the project because the location was considered to have ecological values and would be conserved. The authorities would take into account of hydrodynamics to avoid the accumulation of sand and stagnant waters. It was estimated that the first piece of land would be reclaimed in 2019 the earliest. Further studies would be required in respect of water current, navigation channels and ecology, etc., and the issue of land usage would be decided on long term strategic planning.

#### V. Progress Report on North Lantau Hospital Phase I

The Vice-chairlady hoped that the Accident and Emergency (A&E) Department would be able to provide around-the-clock service as soon as possible. She was appreciative of the provision of the General Out-patient Clinic (GOPC) service of Tung Chung Health Centre in sync with the opening of North Lantau Hospital, as the Hospital Authority was receptive of proposals given by members. She advised that North Lantau Hospital should collaborate with the community in provision of mental health services for the district. She also proposed that residents of the area should be given priority in recruitment of staff, so as to cut short the transportation time. She also requested the provision of ophthalmology specialty and dental services in the hospital.

A member said that he was comforted by the pledge to provide 24-hour

A&E services a year after the inception of the Hospital. He also proposed the provision of dental or prenatal diagnosis services at the premises vacated by the GOPC at Tung Chung Health Centre.

A member enquired about the opening hours of the A&E service of North Lantau Hospital. He also enquired about the schedule of cancellation of the special night out-patient services of Tung Chung Health Centre, the schedule of the GOPC of Tung Chung Health Centre moving into North Lantau Hospital, and whether there would be more quotas for the GOPC services after moving into North Lantau Hospital.

A representative of the Hospital Authority responded as follows:

- (a) Initially, North Lantau Hospital would provide eight-hour A&E services in September of the current year, i.e. from 9:00am to 5:00pm. After operation was smoothened, the service hours would be extended to 16 hours, i.e. from 8:00am to 12:00 midnight. The special night out-patient services of Tung Chung Health Centre would be cancelled only after the A&E services of North Lantau Hospital was extended to 12:00 midnight.
- (b) She was appreciative of the proposals given by members and their advice would be reflected to the Hospital Authority.
- (c) Specialty clinics in greater demand would be provided as soon as possible and other specialties would follow gradually, depending on availability of manpower and resources.
- (d) The Hospital would strengthen its ties with the local community and that preliminary preparation for mental illness clinic was already underway.
- (e) The Hospital Authority would accord priority to staff members resided in the district and it had also advised contractors to do the same.

A member enquired about the conditions for implementation of planning of the second phase, and requested the installation of an MTR fare-saver at the Hospital and the building of cover on the private road.

Members requested the provision of 24-hour A&E services at the earliest possible.

The representative of the Hospital Authority responded that land had been reserved for the development of the second phase. To address the concern, she said that the project of North Lantau Hospital was implemented despite the population of Lantau had yet met the usual planning requirement. The Government would keep in view of the demand for services and population growth in the planning of the second phase development. The request for building a cover on the private road would be related to government departments concerned. If the MTR would agree to install a fare-saver, the Hospital would collaborate. The provision of 8-hour and 16-hour A&E services was transitional, and realization of 24-hour services was the ultimate goal.

A member hoped that the land set aside for second phase development would not be altered for other usages, as population in Tung Chung would grow to 220 000 people.

VI. Question on proposed provision of English version of papers and minutes of IDC meetings

The Secretary of IDC said that whenever practicable, government papers of meetings would be issued in both Chinese and English. However, due to actual constraints in resources and operation, sometimes written materials were issued in either Chinese or English. As far as papers and minutes of IDC meetings were concerned, existing arrangements included:

- (a) Chinese and English versions of papers provided by government departments would be uploaded onto the website of IDC.
- (b) The gist of minutes of the IDC meetings in English, which were rather detailed, would be uploaded onto the website of IDC.
- (c) A message was posted in the English website that for individual requests for versions of another language not yet provided, members of the public could contact the secretariat. The latter would endeavour to provide the English translated version (English version) of papers and minutes as far as practicable.

- (d) Upon request from members or members of the public, simultaneous interpretation would be arranged as far as practicable at meetings of IDC and IDC committees.

At the current stage, the secretariat would not be able to provide the English version of the entire minutes of meetings, motions and questions due to operational and resources constraints. For written responses provided by government departments or organizations, the secretariat would request for both Chinese and English versions as far as possible. The Islands District Office and HAD would try to enhance translation services to better meet the demands from the public as far as practicable.

A member was appreciative of the response provided by the secretariat. She hoped that English summary of minutes of committees' meetings would be provided so that expatriates would be able to understand matters discussed at those meetings.

VII. Question on Sok Kwu Wan Clinic on Lamma Island

A member said that the issue had been raised for more than a decade and there had yet been any improvement. There were many visitors on Lamma during holidays and there was a genuine need for stationing medical staff on the island.

VIII. Question on widening of roads in the vicinity of Cheung Chau Pier

The representative of the Transport Department said that roads in the vicinity of Cheung Chau Pier were crowded with disembarked passengers after ferries arrived. However, the crowd would soon disperse and the existing road capacity was adequate to handle the situation. The Transport Department had no plan to widen roads in the area.

The representative of District Lands Office, Islands said that the Office would proactively tie in if the proposal was to be implemented.

A member said that the vicinity of Cheung Chau Pier was a bottleneck and the congestion was compounded by obstruction of bicycles. Widening of roads would facilitate a smooth flow of pedestrian movement and improve outlook in the area.

IX. Proposed Amendments to the Approved Peng Chau Outline Zoning Plan No. S/I-PC/10

A member said that he supported the proposal on the change of usage of the land.

Another member said that as there were no small houses on Peng Chau, thus the land planned as Village Type Development in the town centre should be changed to residential land to enable applications for exchange of land to build houses.

X. Proposed amendments to the Approved South Lantau Coast Outline Zoning Plan No. S/SLC/16

A member queried that the proposed amendments were a correction of past mistakes.

The representative of the Planning Department said that the proposed amendments were technical in nature, and the rezoning of two sites had been approved by the Town Planning Board (TPB).

Another representative of the Planning Department said that the Lantau South Coast Outline Zoning Plan (OZP) was a small scale map, and thus the lot boundary shown might be slightly different, compared with the boundary shown on the land lease. As the landowner's application to alter land use had been approved, the Planning Department had to amend the OZP to reflect the amendments.

XI. Signature Projects Scheme in Islands District

The representatives of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) gave supplementary information about the project proposal about Silver Mine Bay Beach, one of the two selected signature projects of the Islands District.

A representative of LCSD said that while concerts had been held at the Silver Mine Bay Beach in the past, they were once-a-year events. The following

matters had to be considered for the establishment of a permanent venue at which multiple concerts would be held every year:

- (a) Safety of users: The Bathing Beaches Regulation stipulated that operation or playing of instrument or the singing of any song on any bathing beach to the annoyance of any person using the beach were not allowed. As Silver Mine Bay Beach was a gazetted beach, the above regulation would apply. Noise could cause annoyance to residents, beach users and lifeguards, and might affect the lifeguards in carrying out their duties.
- (b) Impact on environment: The Environmental Impact Assessment Ordinance required that the project had to pass environmental impact assessment before its implementation.
- (c) Change of usage of bathing beach: The change of usage of beach would require submission of an application to the TPB.
- (d) Usage and frequency: Should the facilities only have limited usage and their usage rate was scarce, criticism of wastage of public funds might be drawn.
- (e) The aim of the project: The proposed aim of the project was mainly to foster the development of tourist industry, thus the LCSD suggested that government departments related to tourism should be invited to take part in the formulation of the project.

A few members queried why the above concerns were not raised earlier for members' consideration in the process of choosing proposed projects.

The District Officer (Islands) said that in the materials on works and legal requirements presented to members, the above concerns had been included. The LCSD reiterated its concerns at the current stage so that members could give due consideration to the above concerns before the implementation of the project.

## XII. Mid-term Review on Ferry Services for Outlying Islands

A member queried why the Discovery Bay and Ma Wan ferries were not included in the mid-term review. She was critical of the lack of supervision of the Discovery Bay ferry service and its application for fare increase.

The Vice-chairlady said that the single journey fare of Mui Wo ferry during holidays was exorbitant. She also hoped that the Government would extend its \$120 million ferry services subsidy but she had reservation about subsidizing the maintenance fees. She also proposed the establishment of a fund for stabilizing the price of petroleum.

The representative of the Transport Department explained that the mid-term review being conducted was a follow-up action of the Government's decision in 2010 to provide a \$120 million subsidy to ferry services between 2011 and 2014. The Government had then explained the reasons in providing subsidy to the six ferry routes. The Transport Department was handling the Discovery Bay ferry service's application for fare increase. He also explained that maintenance fees were a major component of the cost structure of ferry services, and subsidizing maintenance services would be conducive to stabilizing fares.

In response to an enquiry about whether safety records would be considered in the mid-term review, the representative of the Transport Department responded in the affirmative and said that the issue was mainly the responsibility of the Marine Department, which was a member of the selective committee on the tender board for ferry services.

Islands District Council Secretariat  
June 2013