

(Translation)

**Islands District Council  
Minutes of Meeting of the  
Community Affairs, Culture and Recreation Committee**

Date : 7 May 2018 (Monday)

Time : 2:00 p.m.

Venue : Islands District Council Conference Room

**Present**

Ms YU Lai-fan (Chairman)

Ms TSANG Sau-ho, Josephine (Vice-Chairman)

Mr YU Hon-kwan, Randy, JP

Mr YUNG Chi-ming, BBS

Mr CHAN Lin-wai

Mr WONG Hon-kuen, Ken

Ms LEE Kwai-chun

Mr TANG Ka-piu, Bill, JP

Ms YUNG Wing-sheung, Amy

Mr KWONG Koon-wan

Mr CHOW Ho-ding, Holden

Mr KWOK Ping, Eric

Ms FU Hiu-lam Sammi

Mr WONG Hoi-yu

Mr LAI Tsz-man

Ms KWOK Wai-man, Mealoha

Mr ON Man-sang

Ms YIP Sheung-ching

**Attendance by Invitation**

Ms SO Yim-ling, Brenda

Regional Officer/Hong Kong Island,  
Independent Commission Against Corruption

**In Attendance**

Ms CHAN Sok-fong, Cherry

Deputy District Leisure Manager (District Support) Islands,  
Leisure and Cultural Services Department

Ms KWOK Lai-kuen, Elaine

Senior Librarian (Islands),  
Leisure and Cultural Services Department

Ms LEE Kit-yee, Kitty

Senior Manager (New Territories South)/Promotion,  
Leisure and Cultural Services Department

Mr WONG Kin-sun, Frederick

Senior Community Relations Officer (Hong Kong  
West/Islands), Independent Commission Against Corruption

Mr NG Wai-lung, David	Assistant District Social Welfare Officer (Central Western, Southern and Islands)2, Social Welfare Department
Mr AU Sheung-man, Benjamin	Assistant District Officer (Islands)1, Islands District Office
Mr LAM Kit-sing	Representative, Islands District Sports Association

**Secretary**

Ms CHAN Shuk-yi, Rachel	Executive Officer (District Council)1, Islands District Office
-------------------------	--

**Absent with Apologies**

Mr CHOW Yuk-tong, SBS	
Dr LEE Chi-on, Clement	Senior School Development Officer (Islands)1, Education Bureau
Ms YUEN Wai-kwan	Representative, Association of School Heads of Islands District
Ms CHOI Kwok-por	Representative, Hong Kong Islands Cultural & Art Association

~~~~~

**Welcoming Remarks**

The Chairman welcomed representatives of government departments and organisations as well as Members to the meeting.

2. Members noted that Mr CHOW Yuk-tong, Dr LEE Chi-on, Clement, Ms YUEN Wai-kwan and Ms CHOI Kwok-por were unable to attend the meeting due to other commitments.

I. **Confirmation of Minutes of Previous Meeting held on 5.3.2018**

3. The Chairman said that the above minutes had incorporated the amendments proposed by government departments and organisations and had been distributed to Members for perusal prior to the meeting.

4. The captioned minutes were confirmed unanimously without amendments.

II. Social Welfare Department Central Western, Southern and Islands District Social Welfare Office Annual Work Plan 2018-19  
(Paper CACRC 19/2018)

5. The Chairman welcomed Mr NG Wai-lung, David, Assistant District Social Welfare Officer (Central Western, Southern and Islands)<sup>2</sup> of Social Welfare Department (SWD) to the meeting to present the paper.

6. Mr David NG briefly presented the paper.

7. Mr Randy YU said that the service areas of Neighbourhood Advice-Action Council (NAAC) Tung Chung Integrated Services Centre were mentioned in Paragraph 7 of the paper. He enquired whether its service areas covered the Home Ownership Scheme housing estates in Mui Wo which would take in residents in July this year.

8. Ms Amy YUNG said that it was learnt that the Department would co-operate with 2 non-governmental organisations (NGOs), Sheng Kung Hui and NAAC, to provide services in Islands District. Newspapers recently reported there was an issue of “fattening the top and thinning the bottom” in NGOs co-operated with the Government. District frontline workers received only meagre salaries for their hard work. As such, there was exodus of staff and staff being laid off. She enquired whether the Department would step up supervising these NGOs, regularly review their quality of services, whether their staff were properly protected, and whether their financial disclosure was made in accordance with government guidelines in order to avoid “fattening the top and thinning the bottom” and the quality of frontline services from deteriorating.

9. Mr Eric KWOK raised his views as follows:

- (a) The in-take of residents of Ying Tung Estate in Tung Chung had begun, while that of Mun Tung Estate would begin in the following year. The Department seemed to rely only on the 2 NGOs (Sheng Kung Hui and NAAC) to provide services in the district. He was concerned that the services available might not meet the demand of the residents. He opined that the Department should strengthen the manpower and network of the services of Yat Tung Estate in Tung Chung instead of relying only on NGOs.
- (b) With regard to family support, he had earlier reflected to the Financial Secretary that the support of SWD to family carers was woefully inadequate. In the 4 preceding months, 3 young mental illness patients took their own lives in Yat Tung Estate, Tung Chung. He had visited relevant families and learnt that there were no social workers to follow up on the cases. The father of one of the deceased said that his son had become mentally ill 9 years ago. He had attempted to kill himself at school before his fatal suicide in the current year. In the intervening period he received no support, no phone call to express sympathy or visit

from any agencies. The father did not know how to take care of his son and handle his problems. Each year, SWD provided more than \$900 million to NGOs to provide services. However, there was no information of family support in the Department's papers. He hoped that the Department would strengthen the services and manpower of Tung Chung, to avoid totally depending on NGOs to provide services in the area.

- (c) With regard to family friendly facilities, parents of most young families in Tung Chung had to go to work to support the family. However, the child care services in Yat Tung Estate were woefully inadequate and quota for full-day services was limited, reflecting a serious community structural issue. He urged the Department to review and resolve the issue, or else dissension within the society would intensify and the public would become increasingly dissatisfied with the Government.
- (d) After the in-take of residents of Ying Tung Estate and Mun Tung Estate, population in the area would increase by over 20 000. However, the Department's paper only contained services provided by NGOs, but not ways to cope with the rising demand for social welfare associated with the increase in population in the area. He assisted the residents to resolve their problems and found that the Department did not provide adequate manpower to support the residents. He hoped that the Department would listen to Members' views and be concerned about the demands of the area in implementation of programmes.

10. Mr David NG made a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) The services of Mui Wo were provided by NAAC, which had adequate manpower and resources to carry out its work in the area at present. The Department would continue to monitor the changes in population and demand of Mui Wo.
- (b) Subvented NGOs under lump sum grant (LSG) had to meet various departmental requirements (including financial disclosure). The Department was discussing with the sector whether to raise the existing requirements and whether more financial disclosure was needed for the sake of more effective supervision. At present, subvented NGOs under LSG had to meet certain requirements in financial and corporate management. Requirements in financial management and disclosure were set out in Lump Sum Grant Manual, while requirements for corporate management in the Best Practice Manual. With regard to the situation of "fattening the top and thinning the bottom" in NGOs about which the public expressed concern, the Department would closely monitor whether the services would be affected. It was understood that the organisations providing services subvented by the Department did not lay off staff and thus quality and quantity of service was not affected. The Department learnt that some organisations were subsidised by other means to

implement short term programmes and contracts of some staff would end upon completion of the programmes concerned. However, services subvented by the Department were not affected.

- (c) Suicide cases of young people needed to be followed up by social workers undoubtedly and the public could refer such cases to SWD. After such occurrences, medical social workers or workers of relevant Integrated Family Service Centres would make initial contact with family of the person who committed suicide. However, the family might decline the services offered because they were busy handling the matter. The Department would continue to understand the follow-up of the case concerned.
- (d) The Department noted that there were many new developments in Tung Chung and its population continued to grow. In response, it was planning various new services in the area, including those for the elderly, the youth, as well as family and child care services. NGOs would be invited to operate relevant services under the existing mechanism. The Department would also invite NGOs to submit proposals in respect of residential care homes for the elderly and for persons with disability in Ying Tung Estate and Mun Tung Estate. Vetting would then be conducted to identify suitable service providers.
- (e) The Department also planned to set up a sub-office of Integrated Community Centre for Mental Wellness (ICCMW) in Yu Yat House, Yat Tung Estate, which would be operated by New Life Psychiatric Rehabilitation Association (New Life), an organisation providing services in the area all along. The Department expected that the sub-office would commence service as soon as possible to serve residents in the area.

11. Mr Bill TANG raised his views as follows:

- (a) New Life had been providing services at its office in Yat Tung Estate all along, except that the office did not occupy the whole unit. Islands District Council (IDC) had been supportive of rehabilitation services all along.
- (b) Residents were concerned about when Sheng Kung Hui would move to the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of Fu Tung Plaza, and the unit on the ground floor of Tung Ma House in Fu Tung Estate would be vacated for Tung Wah Group of Hospitals (TWGHs) to operate the District Support Centre for Persons with Disabilities. The proposal was raised 6 years ago and he enquired the Department of its progress. He also asked whether difficulties were encountered and whether the Link Asset Management Limited had anything to do with the hindrance. He said that IDC could provide assistance if necessary.

- (c) He said that he had been the convenor of Islands District International Day of Disabled Persons Working Group, and provisions for the 18 Districts had not been adjusted according to inflation for many years and were maintained at \$53,000. The meal and transport expenditure for visiting Ocean Park would take up about \$30,000 and the remaining sum would not be adequate to implement other programmes. He hoped that the Department would increase the provisions.

12. Mr Eric KWOK raised his views as follows:

- (a) In respect of inadequate support for ex-mentally ill patients and their family carers, he hoped that the Department would arrange social workers from the psychiatric department of New Life to follow up on the relevant cases in the area. He enquired whether the Department required NGOs to inform it of the follow-up of each individual case, or the Department would only provide funds without detailed follow-up. The relevant service in the area was in a disastrous state and the suicide cases he came across was not closely followed up by a social worker before the incident. He learnt that the Department had a data base of mentally ill patients in the area. He opined that even if a case had been referred to NGOs, the Department should also follow it up after the provision of LSG. Leaving NGOs to handle the cases on their own would be a very unsatisfactory manner to deal with the matter. He hoped that the relevant policy bureau would as soon as possible study methods to strengthen the services and take measures to stop tragedy from happening.
- (b) At present, the quota for child care services in Yat Tung Estate was inadequate and the adjacent Mun Tung Estate would take in residents in the following year. In addition, many young families in Ying Tung Estate would need relevant services. He hoped that the Department would expeditiously increase the quota of child care services of NGOs in the area (such as Sheng Kung Hui, NAAC and Hong Kong Outlying Islands Women's Association). At present, the Government had adequate fiscal reserves and it was hoped that more resources would be allocated to resolve the livelihood hardship of the public.

13. Ms Amy YUNG raised her views as follows:

- (a) She had referred the case of a quite severely mentally ill patient in Discovery Bay to the Department but there was no progress for a year and residents kept complaining. She opined that the handling of the Department was not satisfactory and hoped that more resources would be deployed to step up the services. If the Department did not have adequate manpower or if the staff was not capable of handling the case, she proposed that the Department should seek assistance from professional organisations. She opined that the handling of mentally ill patients was the biggest difficulty in district work. It was risky and the said patient

made phone calls to her constantly. She herself was not an expert and found it hard to handle the case. The number of mentally ill patients was on the increase these days, and she hoped that the Department would deploy more resources to tackle the issue.

- (b) According to newspaper articles, the local programmes implemented by NGOs that experienced financial difficulties had been completed, but new programmes were not launched because of short of resources. In Tung Chung, the population would increase vastly as new housing estates were about to take in residents so there were greater needs for support of social service organisations and their programmes. She opined that if organisations could not implement new programmes because of financial issues, it would mean that they failed to meet the requirements of the Department.
- (c) She proposed that all NGOs should make public their information pursuant to the disclosure requirements of public listed companies, i.e. to list the annual salaries of all top officials in the annual report. Top officials received high salaries but their management was not satisfactory and there was a lack of transparency. The morale of the frontline staff was compromised. In case problems arose in organisations, frontline staff would be subjected to pay cut or would be laid off. In the long run, effective social welfare work would not be possible. The Department could consider commissioning audit agencies of the Government to conduct auditing for relevant organisations to find out if issues existed. If necessary, other organisations could be arranged to provide services. She opined that the Department was duty-bound to review the system.

14. Mr David NG made a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) He had made responses about the progress of District Support Centre for Persons with Disabilities at previous meetings, advising that Sheng Kung Hui would make planning and fitting works. The unit on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of Fu Tung Plaza had been occupied by a kindergarten for many years and thus there were some technical difficulties in renovation. Issues were gradually resolved and the progress met expectations. Barring unforeseen circumstances, Sheng Kung Hui would be moved to the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of Fu Tung Plaza in 2018-19, and the unit on the ground floor of Tung Ma House in Fu Tung estate would be vacated for TWGHs to provide services.
- (b) Matters on the amount of subsidy for Public Education Activities on Rehabilitation was beyond the purview of the District Office. Members' views would be relayed to policy bureau concerned.
- (c) Regarding support services for the mentally ill, patients would be followed up by community psychiatric nurses or medical social workers (MSWs) after consultation at specialist hospitals or clinics under Hospital Authority.

Community psychiatric nurses would regularly visit patients to understand their progress and urged them to take medicines as prescribed. Some of the patients gradually recovering would be referred to the NGO ICCMW. These patients' illness may be relatively mild and would need community support services only (such as follow-up in groups). He understood that many patients would come across emotional fluctuations in everyday life and some closed cases would need follow-up again under certain circumstances. SWD would step up support for mentally ill patients and where necessary their cases would be referred to doctors or social workers for follow-up or they would be persuaded to be admitted to hospitals.

- (d) The Department would consider increasing child care quota as planned. He would not be able to divulge details as the measure was at preliminary studying stage. In the past, there was less demand for child care services in Fu Tung Estate and Yat Tung Estate. As new housing estates would be completed in the area which led to a further increase in the population, the Department would increase the capacity for child care services in its future planning.
- (e) Regarding the referrals of the mentally ill, many cases were referred to community psychiatric nurses or MSWs by specialist clinics as mentioned previously. The Department would pro-actively increase the service provisions in the planning, and NGOs would be publicly invited to operate the services according to existing mechanism.

15. Ms LEE Kwai-chun said that the elderly living in the area gradually received letters about Higher Old Age Living Allowance, but they did not understand the Scheme nor how to fill in the forms. She proposed that the Department should hold briefing sessions in the district to introduce the scheme and application procedures.

16. Mr David NG said that he would relay the proposal to relevant staff for follow-up.

(Mr Bill TANG joined the meeting at around 2:20 p.m. Mr Holden CHOW left the meeting at around 2:30 p.m.)

### III. Work Plan 2018/19 of ICAC Regional Office (Hong Kong West/Islands) (Paper CACRC 20/2018)

17. The Chairman welcomed Ms SO Yim-ling, Brenda, Regional Officer/Hong Kong Island and Mr WONG Kin-sun, Frederick, Senior Community Relations Officer (Hong Kong West/Island) of the Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC) to the meeting to present the paper.

18. Ms Brenda SO briefly presented the paper.



19. Mr Eric KWOK appreciated the school activities of the “All for Integrity” project conducted by ICAC were very comprehensive and effective. He said that members of the public have to download the anti-corruption materials provided by ICAC from its website on their own accord. This is considered as a rather passive way to disseminate messages. He suggested that a leaf be taken from the Fire Safety Committee, which in recent years promoted fire safety information effectively in kindergartens through drama interacting with parents and children. He suggested that ICAC should consider promoting anti-corruption messages to kindergarten and junior primary school pupils via drama.

20. Ms Amy YUNG raised her views as follows:

- (a) She was appreciative of ICAC’s anti-corruption education in primary and secondary schools. She opined that accountability, transparency and governance of ICAC itself were of utmost importance to upholding integrity. The Head of Operations of ICAC was appointed on an acting basis for a long time, prompting the question of lack of long-term planning within ICAC.
- (b) With regard to stepping up clean election education for the new round of public elections, she opined that “small circle” elections were more prone to manipulation. The success of Hong Kong relied on its probity, but she opined that the culture and quality of Hong Kong people was obviously deteriorating. To tackle the issue, it was not adequate to rely on primary and secondary school education. Work had to be done in respect of policies and influence from external political forces had to be avoided. Previous Chief Executive Elections and recent arrests of former top officials aroused international concerns. Whether Hong Kong could maintain its status as an international financial centre and continue to attract foreign investment would depend on the effectiveness of ICAC in enforcing the law. She opined that the education work of ICAC was already adequate and that law enforcement should be enhanced to achieve greater effects.

21. Ms Brenda SO made a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) She concurred with Mr Eric KWOK’s suggestion. ICAC organised about 250 interactive dramas annually. All Hong Kong secondary schools were invited to arrange ICAC’s drama, during which students could ask each other questions and take part in role play. For kindergartens and primary schools, a cartoon character “Gee Dor Dor” was created for teaching packages and cartoon filmlets (some with English versions). These materials, with parenting elements incorporated, were tailor made for parents and children and could be downloaded from ICAC’s Moral Education Website.

- (b) She thanked Ms Amy YUNG for her positive comment on ICAC's integrity education work in primary and secondary schools as well as kindergartens. With regard to the accountability and governance of ICAC, she and her colleagues would continue to serve the community with dedication. ICAC had also been acting in accordance with the law independently and impartially. It would be impartial in its investigation regardless of the social status, background and identity of the persons involved.
- (c) With regard to Ms Amy YUNG's concern about the acting appointment of the Head of Operations, the Commissioner of ICAC had given his explanation. At present, the Head of Operations was acting for "administrative convenience". Acting appointments and personnel deployment of ICAC were handled according to established mechanism and procedures. Staff of ICAC was committed to serving the community and worked dutifully all along.
- (d) ICAC conducted law enforcement work in public elections of various sectors in Hong Kong in accordance with the authority conferred by the Elections (Corrupt and Illegal Conduct) Ordinance. It would also closely liaise with Registration and Electoral Office and district offices (in respect of rural representative elections).
- (e) ICAC understood that foreign and local investors attached great importance to the legal system and probity of the society. As such, ICAC would promote anti-corruption messages to listed companies, start-ups and foreign investors. The Commissioner of ICAC would also contact foreign consulates to enhance their understanding of the legal system of Hong Kong and exchange anti-corruption experiences with them.

22. Ms Amy YUNG raised her views as follows:

- (a) She thanked the ICAC representative for her explanation. She respected the independence of the investigation of ICAC, but she worried that law enforcement agencies might be selective in taking law enforcement actions.
- (b) The Acting Head of Operations had been acting for the post for 3 years. She queried whether that was the normal practice of the Government. If ICAC was subject to the interference of top officials of the Government or external political forces, Hong Kong's status as an international financial centre would be affected even if ICAC maintained its integrity. Local and international news revealed that there was a situation of "Bad money drives out good", especially in the appointment system of the Government. The perception of the overall degree of probity of the society was deteriorating. She urged top government officials not to destroy the system of probity of Hong Kong and she did not hope that Hong Kong would be subject to strong external political influence.

23. Ms Brenda SO responded as follows:

- (a) As recently explained by the Commissioner of ICAC via mass media, the acting appointment of the Head of Operations was conducted according to established policies. She reiterated that staff of ICAC had been dedicated to serving the community all along and had been impartial in law enforcement. She deeply believed that the entire staff of the Operations Department, the Corruption Prevention Department and the Community Relations Department performed their job dutifully.
- (b) Whether a new case should be investigated was not solely determined by ICAC. The independent Operations Review Committee was responsible for supervising the investigation work of ICAC, including the progress and results of individual cases, and whether investigation of a case should be terminated or be referred to other agencies, etc.
- (c) ICAC attached great importance to public opinions. Every year an independent organisation would be commissioned to conduct an opinion survey in the form of face-to-face household interviews. According to survey results, 99% of respondents said that Hong Kong's probity development was important and a corresponding number of respondents supported the work of ICAC. The public perception of the degree of probity of Hong Kong was a driving force for ICAC. ICAC determined to let people believe that it would continue to conduct anti-corruption work impartially and with high transparency.

24. Ms Amy YUNG reiterated that she was respectful of ICAC and personnel of all its departments, with the exception of the former and incumbent Commissioners.

25. Mr LAI Tsz-man said that as a Member of the Association of School Heads of Islands District, he would like to give opinions with regard to the educational work of ICAC as follows:

- (a) ICAC's anti-corruption education in primary and secondary schools of Islands District yielded satisfactory results and schools would continue to assist ICAC in this regard. The education work of ICAC had gained some effects in primary and secondary schools, whereas, as evidenced in social movements and other incidents in recent years, the deployment of resources for university students was queried by the public and generated social problems. He hoped that ICAC would step up the anti-corruption education among university students in response to social situations.
- (b) With regard to the image of ICAC, he opined that ICAC had maintained its independence. The prosecution of the former Chief Executive, the former Chief Secretary and well-known property developers revealed that ICAC enforced the law effectively and handled important cases without any

interference. He had confidence in ICAC and hoped that it would continue to serve Hong Kong with professionalism.

26. The Chairman said that ICAC would soon be in its 45<sup>th</sup> year. She believed that it would further enhance its strategies and highlights in its 2018/19 work plan to elevate the level of probity of Hong Kong. She requested Members to endorse supporting the “All for Integrity 45” Publicity Project for the Islands District as contained in the paper and agreed that the logo of IDC could be displayed on publicity materials of the project.

27. The Committee endorsed supporting the above mentioned project and agreed that ICAC could display the logo of IDC on the publicity materials of the project.

IV. Question on provision of book drops in Discovery Bay  
(Paper CACRC 21/2018)

28. The Chairman welcomed Ms KWOK Lai-kuen, Elaine, Senior Librarian (Islands) of Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) to the meeting to respond the question. The written reply of LCSD had been distributed to Members for perusal prior to the meeting.

29. Ms Amy YUNG briefly presented the question, and pointed out 2 mistakes in the written reply of LCSD. It was stated in the written reply that the mobile library service point in Discovery Bay was located beside the fountain in Discovery Bay Plaza, while in fact the fountain had been demolished at least 5 years ago. At present, the mobile library service point was located at the entrance of the Post Office. The service days of the service points were every Tuesday and Thursday instead of every Tuesday and Friday as listed in the written reply. She had pointed out that these mistakes in the written reply to the representative of LCSD Ms Elaine KWOK prior to the meeting. She was disappointed at the inaccurate information, which revealed that the Department did not pro-actively make efforts to understand the needs of the community. The fountain had been demolished for many years. However, the Department’s information had yet been updated, which in turn reflected that the Department did not maintain close communication with the staff of the mobile library and did not know the service time of the vehicle. She found the Department’s mistake unacceptable and opined that the Department had not pro-actively study ways to enhance its service. The Department opined that the proposal was not feasible before discussing with the Post Office. It reflected that LCSD was too rigid. She hoped that the Department would review its work practically, avoid the same mistakes and serve the public with a pro-active and open attitude.

30. Ms Elaine KWOK responded as follows:

- (a) She thanked Ms YUNG for pointing out the erroneous information contained in the written reply. After the meeting, the corrected written reply would be distributed to Members for perusal via the Secretariat.

- (b) She briefly presented the written reply and appreciated the positive comments and support of Members to library service. With regard to the spur of Ms YUNG on the library service, she said that the library would be more cautious in future.

(Post-meeting note: LCSD had corrected the written reply after the meeting and distributed it to Members for perusal via the Secretariat.)

31. The Chairman said that she had relayed Ms Amy YUNG's views at the Customer Liaison Group meeting on postal service held on 11 April this year. The representative of Hong Kong Post said that it was not able to set up book drops at Discovery Bay Post Office for the time being. The Department would contact LCSD directly to follow up on the matter.

32. Ms Amy YUNG raised her views as follows:

- (a) The Department said that her proposal was not considered because of constraints in resources. However, she would like to emphasise the great demand for library service from Discovery Bay residents, as evidenced by the high number of visitors to the Discovery Bay Mobile Library and its greatest number of borrowers in the Islands District revealed in every activity report of the Department.
- (b) With regard to resource deployment, there were 21 000 residents in Discovery Bay but the proportion of resources was on the low side. She hoped that the departments concerned would pay attention to the situation. They should avoid ossified thinking and ignoring the demand of residents.

33. Ms Elaine KWOK responded as follows:

- (a) The mobile library service point visited Discovery Bay twice a week and its service was recognised by Members and residents of the area. The Department would continue to provide service in response to residents' demand. Apart from Mobile Library, block loan of library materials was provided to schools in the area and 2 community libraries were set up in Discovery Bay.
- (b) She thanked Ms YUNG for proposing in past meetings the organisation of activities to promote public library services in Discovery Bay. The proposal was accepted and an outreaching activity introducing library service to the residents was held on 18 April this year at venues provided by Islands District Office. The Department was also funded by IDC to organise reading activities at the 2 community libraries in Discovery Bay. The Department would update library collection of the mobile library and add in new titles Discovery Bay residents were interested in. She appreciated Members' views and said that the Department would continue to monitor residents' demand and enhance library service.

V. Question on recruitment of Yoga tutors  
(Paper CACRC 22/2018)

34. The Chairman said that LCSD had provided a written reply for Members' perusal.

35. Ms Amy YUNG briefly presented the question, and raised her views as follows:

- (a) She expressed her utmost regret over LCSD's not sending representatives to the meeting, but just providing a written reply. The Department did not respond to whether it would recruit additional Yoga tutors in the written reply. It only stated that it was not the accrediting body of tutors and would thus adopt tutors recognised by the former Urban Council (UC). UC had been dissolved for nearly 20 years so she queried how many yoga tutors recognised by UC there were at present and whether they were fit to be yoga tutors at their current ages. She asked the Department the reason for not training new yoga tutors in more than 10 years.
- (b) The fees for yoga and swimming classes in the market were quite expensive but the demand for both activities was still great. However, the Department was partial in organising many swimming classes and ignoring yoga classes. She opined that it was duty-bound for the Department to promote various sorts of recreational activities at district level with the use of public funds.
- (c) She requested LCSD to reply to the questions of how many yoga tutors there were these days, and how it would train yoga tutors in the future. To her understanding, all places of the yoga classes in the Islands District had been fully filled. If the Department only continued to use tutors recognised by the former UC who would gradually retire as they age, the number of yoga tutors would keep decreasing. If the Department did not squarely respond to the question, she might invite the Director of Leisure and Cultural Services to attend meetings of the IDC to offer a reply. She was very dissatisfied with the written reply of the Department and the Department did not resolve the issue she raised. She hoped that the representative of LCSD would reflect her views to the Department.

36. Ms CHAN Sok-fong, Cherry responded as follows:

- (a) At present, District Leisure Services Offices had to employ yoga tutors according to the guidelines issued by the relevant section in the LCSD Headquarters, which had also provided the written reply. As stated in the reply, LCSD was not the accrediting body of yoga tutors. Generally speaking, relevant national sports associations under Sports Federation & Olympic Committee of Hong Kong, China (SF&OC) were responsible for

the accreditation work. At present, there was no national yoga association recognised by SF&OC. The Department had tried to explore with stakeholders of the industry to arrive at a widely recognised accreditation standard. As the qualification of Yoga tutorship varied widely, further studies and discussion with the industry still took time.

- (b) As stated in the written reply, there were about 20 yoga tutors at present and they were all tutors recognised by the former UC. The Department would continue to monitor matters related to the training of yoga tutors.
- (c) Apart from yoga training classes, the Department organised various sports and recreational activities in districts (including Islands District) and many were very popular (such as fitness classes). The Department would consider organising more popular activities if resources allowed.

37. Ms Amy YUNG raised her views as follows:

- (a) The response given by the representative of LCSD reflected the internal situation of the Department. In recent years, there were substantial changes in the yoga industry, which proved that the activity was very popular. At present, there were only 20 yoga tutors who had taught yoga since the era of the former UC, which reflected that the Department had failed to follow closely the changes in the yoga industry in the previous 20 years. In the market, there were yoga tutors from various schools. She queried the reason for the Department's failure to establish an accrediting mechanism over more than 10 years.
- (b) Yoga activities were very popular and the number of enrollment was numerous. The demand for training classes outstripped supply for a long time. Some districts would like to organise yoga training classes but failed because there was a lack of tutors. She enquired if only the 20 tutors recognised by the former UC were to be hired, and whether the Department would cancel yoga classes if there was a lack of new tutors. If LCSD did not follow up on the matter pro-actively, yoga enthusiasts across the territory would be disaffected and the bureaucratic management style of the Department was unacceptable.

38. Ms Cherry CHAN said that she would reflect Ms YUNG's views to the colleagues concerned in order to follow up the matter.

39. Mr LAM Kit-sing raised his views as follows:

- (a) According to LCSD's policies, sports tutors had to be recognised by relevant national sports associations, not by the Department. However, there was not a national association for yoga and its organisations were too dispersed, making it difficult for LCSD to liaise with them pro-actively.

- (b) Yoga organisations needed to expand so that yoga activities could be advanced and developed. LCSD would need to keep organising yoga classes. Apart from raising the salary of tutors, the Department should train new tutors, or take the initiative to discuss with the industry how to train new tutors in order to resolve the issue of shortage of tutors.

40. The Chairman said that prior to the meeting, she had tried to understand the matter from Islands District Leisure Services Office. She learnt that apart from yoga classes, there was a lack of tutors in other training classes and the main reason was that tutors were unwilling to go to classes in Islands District. Some classes were too early (for instance 7:30 to 8:00 a.m.) and it was difficult to arrange tutors.

41. Ms Amy YUNG said that if tutors could be arranged to teach in the afternoon, she could assist with the search for venues.

42. The Chairman requested the representative of LCSD to reflect Members' opinions to the Department and hoped that the Department would adjust the time of training classes.

(Mr Randy YU left the meeting at around 3:45 p.m.)

VI. Question on request for provision of entertainment expenses allowance for chairmen and executive members of mutual aid committees  
(Paper CACRC 23/2018)

43. The Chairman welcomed Mr AU Sheung-man, Benjamin, Assistant District Officer (Islands)<sup>1</sup> of Islands District Office (IsDO) to the meeting to respond the question. The written reply of Home Affairs Department (HAD) had been distributed to Members for perusal prior to the meeting.

44. Mr Eric KWOK briefly presented the question.

45. Mr Benjamin AU said that IsDO had communicated with HAD about the issue. As IsDO was responsible for matters related to mutual aid committees (MACs) of public housing estates in the district, he would respond to the question on behalf of HAD. He briefly presented the written reply.

46. Ms Amy YUNG said that according to the List of Categories Normally Acceptable for Reimbursement (the List), the highest amount of accountable allowance to be reimbursed for each quarter was \$2,000, i.e. around \$667 per month. She enquired whether travel expenses was an item on the List. She said that members of MACs were all unpaid volunteers. They devoted themselves to serve the community or housing estates and had to handle different views of the residents. Their work was not easy but they got limited respect or pecuniary allowance. The monthly salary of the "paparazzi teams" in the Legislative Council (LegCo) was \$110,000 and their work was only to



monitor the actions of LegCo members. She queried whether it was a proper way of spending public funds. She hoped that the Government would review its use of public funds and deploy resources on the community and take care of these unpaid volunteers.

47. Mr Eric KWOK raised his views as follows:

- (a) As a result of inadequate financial assistance, many MACs were in a state of “hibernation”. According to the written reply of HAD, the monthly allowance at present was only about \$600, which would be very tight for paying telephone, electricity, office furniture, equipment and stationery expenditure, etc. An MAC chairman once told him that the air-conditioning expenditure for 2 meetings exceeded \$2,000 and the MAC had to pay its own expenses. Thus they had to hold meetings on cooler days or abandon meetings.
- (b) At present, many MACs were inactive. Except the Chairman and a few dedicated persons, other members hardly get involved. As the Department responsible for the management of MACs, HAD should be embarrassed. Only a few members of MACs attended the spring receptions organised by HAD annually due to high travel expenses. Some members over 65 years old told him that they attended the reception only because they could enjoy the \$2 fare concession and those could not would not attend.
- (c) HAD should not impose too many restrictions on MACs when they organised and promoted activities and should consider providing more allowances. Or else Model Rules for a MAC in a Public Housing Estate would become an empty talk.
- (d) The written reply of HAD said that the maximum amount of financial assistance for reimbursable expenditure item outside the List but within the necessary expenditure of the operation of the MAC office or MAC business was at most \$700 per quarter. He opined that the amount was too small and not very useful. In addition, the vetting of reimbursable allowance was too strict that it should be relaxed.

48. Ms Amy YUNG said that there were few participants in the Belt and Road study tours organised by Home Affairs Bureau and millions of dollars were squandered. She hoped that the Government would organise fewer activities with political stance and increase grants to MACs instead in order to benefit members of the public in need.

49. Mr Benjamin AU said that the Government had supported the work of MACs in districts all along and hoped to assist MACs to advance its work through the financial assistance scheme. With regard to the travel expense issue raised by Ms YUNG, MACs could apply for reimbursement of travel expenses according to existing mechanism. The maximum amount of financial assistance for reimbursable expenditure items necessary

for the operation of the MAC office or MAC business was \$700 per quarter. As stated in the written reply, when reviewing the financial assistance scheme, HAD would consider the need for raising the ceiling of the financial assistance and adding items to the List. He would reflect Members' views to HAD.

50. Ms Amy YUNG enquired whether allocation of the Belt and Road study tours could be used for other purposes. She hoped that IsDO would reflect her views to the Director of Home Affairs and the Secretary for Home Affairs.

51. Mr Benjamin AU said that he would relay Members' views.

52. Mr Eric KWOK hoped that HAD would provide a specific timetable on relevant follow-up work.

53. Mr Benjamin AU said that he would reflect Members' views to HAD after the meeting. As far as he understood it, HAD did not have a concrete timetable in respect of relevant review work. He would provide relevant information to Members if it was available.

## VII. Reports by Working Groups

### (i) CACRC Vetting Group

54. The Chairman said that the Vetting Group had processed 40 fund applications for community involvement projects to be held from June to August 2018 at the meetings on 17 April this year. Funding proposals had been submitted to the Committee by circulation of paper for endorsement.

### (ii) CACRC Activities Working Group

#### (a) Women's Development Scheme of Islands District 2017-2018

- Women's Development Scheme of Islands District 2017-2018 organised by the Young Men's Christian Association of Hong Kong Tung Chung Centre and NAAC Tung Chung Integrated Services Centre was completed in January this year with a total expenditure of \$43,821.6.

#### (b) Co-operation Scheme with District Councils 2018-19 (Islands District)

- Islands District recommended 3 organisations to participate in the above scheme, including Tung Chung Safe and Healthy City (Community Services) Foundation Limited, Islands Youth Association and Cheung Chau Rural Committee Integrated Youth Centre. The Working Group submitted the funding application forms of the 3 organisations to the Committee on Promotion of Civic Education on 28 March this year.

(c) Islands District Cultural Festival 2018

- The Working Group proposed to organise the Islands District Cultural Festival 2018 during August 2018 to February 2019. Activities included Islands District Council Presents: Golden Oldies Concert, Islands District Cantonese Opera Appreciation for Mid-autumn, Islands District Cantonese Opera in Celebration of the National Day and Show Time! Islands District Youth Musical Talent Show. The total expenditure was estimated to be \$1.55 million.

55. Members endorsed the reports of the above 2 working groups.

VIII. Reports on the work of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department in Islands District

(i) Cultural Activities

(Paper CACRC 16/2018)

56. The Chairman welcomed Ms LEE Kit-yee, Kitty, Senior Manager (New Territories South)/Promotion of LCSD to the meeting to present the paper.

57. Ms Kitty LEE briefly presented the paper.

58. Members noted the contents of the paper.

(ii) Extension Activities held in Public Libraries

(Paper CACRC 17/2018)

59. The Chairman welcomed Ms KWOK Lai-kuen, Elaine, Senior Librarian (Islands) of LCSD to the meeting to present the paper.

60. Ms Elaine KWOK briefly presented the paper.

61. Members noted the contents of the paper.

(iii) Sports and Recreational Activities

(Paper CACRC 18/2018)

62. The Chairman welcomed Ms CHAN Sok-fong, Cherry, Deputy District Leisure Manager (District Support) Islands of LCSD to the meeting to present the paper.

63. Ms Cherry CHAN briefly presented the paper.

64. Members noted the contents of the paper.

IX. Any Other Business

(i) The 7<sup>th</sup> Hong Kong Games

65. The Chairman said that the 7<sup>th</sup> Hong Kong Games (HKG) would be held from 2018 to 2019. One Member from each of the 18 District Councils would be invited to join the organising committee. According to the past arrangements, the Chairman of the Community Affairs, Culture and Recreation Committee (CACRC) would represent Islands District to be the Member of the 7<sup>th</sup> HKG Organising Committee.

66. Ms Cherry CHAN appreciated the support of Islands District Council to HKG. A team of 170 represented the Islands District in the last HKG and won the “Best Performance Prize” second runner-up of “Cheering Team Competition for the 18 Districts” and Men’s 200m backstroke second runner-up. She hoped that IDC would continue to support HKG and achieved good results again.

67. The Committee endorsed the authorisation of the 7<sup>th</sup> HKG Organizing Committee to display the logo of IDC in publicity activities and on promotional materials.

(ii) Sport For All Day 2018

68. The Chairman said that LCSD issued letters to invite the 18 districts to support Sport For All Day. The relevant letter had been forwarded to Members for their perusal. She proposed that the Committee should support the activity and assist in its promotion and publicity in the district.

69. The Committee endorsed the above proposal.

(iii) Funding Scheme for Women’s Development 2018-19

70. The Chairman said that the Women’s Commission would continue to allocate \$53,000 to each district this year to subsidise the implementation of the Funding Scheme for Women’s Development in the 18 districts in Hong Kong to organise activities conducive to women’s development. She suggested the Working Group of CACRC continue to implement the scheme.

71. The Committee endorsed the above proposal.

X. Date of Next Meeting

72. The meeting was adjourned at 4:10 p.m. The next meeting would be held at 2:00 p.m. on 9 July 2018 (Monday).

-END-