

(Translation)

Minutes of Meeting of
Tourism, Agriculture, Fisheries and Environmental Hygiene Committee

Date : 29 March 2016 (Tuesday)
Time : 2:00 p.m.
Venue : Islands District Council Conference Room,
14/F, Harbour Building, 38 Pier Road, Central, Hong Kong.

Present

Ms LEE Kwai-chun (Chairman)
Ms FU Hiu-lam, Sammi (Vice-Chairman)
Mr CHOW Yuk-tong, BBS
Mr YU Hon-kwan, Randy, JP
Mr YUNG Chi-ming, BBS
Mr CHAN Lin-wai
Mr CHEUNG Fu
Mr FAN Chi-ping
Mr LOU Cheuk-wing
Mr WONG Man-hon
Ms YU Lai-fan
Ms YUNG Wing-sheung, Amy
Mr TANG Ka-piu, Bill, JP
Mr KWONG Koon-wan
Mr CHOW Ho-ding, Holden
Mr KWOK Ping, Eric
Mr LAW Wai-hung
Mr CHAN Ngai-chung
Mr CHEUNG Ming-keung

Attendance by Invitation

Mr AU Ying-kit, Paul	Senior Engineer (Works)(2), Home Affairs Department
Mr TONG Ping-tat, Jimmy	Property Service Manager/Service (Wong Tai Sin, Tsing Yi, Tsuen Wan & Islands 5), Housing Department
Mr CHOW Kam-hung	Senior Health Inspector (Cleansing/Pest Control), Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
Mr HAU Wing-man, Raymond	Deputy District Leisure Manager (Islands), Leisure and Cultural Services Department
Dr CHONG Kit-yee, Kitty	Fisheries Officer (Assessment and Claims), Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department
Dr LEE On-on, Joanne	Fisheries Officer (Aquaculture Environment), Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Mr LEUNG Yat-king	Superintendent (Cemeteries & Crematoria), Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
Mr POON Ping-yeung, Peter	Chief Health Inspector (Cemeteries & Crematoria), Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
Mr KWAN Yau-kee	Chief Health Inspector (Islands)2, Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

In Attendance

Ms CHONG Yan-yee, Belinda	Assistant District Officer (Islands)1, Islands District Office
Mr TANG Tai-king, Tommy	Senior Inspector of Works, Islands District Office
Mr WONG Wai-wan	District Environmental Hygiene Superintendent (Islands), Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
Ms LO Man-kam	Administrative Assistant (Lands/Islands), Lands Department
Ms CHUNG Wing-yan, Carol	Assistant Police Community Relations Officer (Marine Port District), Hong Kong Police Force
Mr LI Man-piu, Bill	Neighbourhood Police Coordinator (Lantau District), Hong Kong Police Force
Mr TO Chi-keung, Gary	Senior Transport Officer/Islands, Transport Department
Mr YEUNG Wai-tak, Victor	Senior Environment Protection Officer (Regional S)5, Environmental Protection Department
Ms LI Wing-yee, Wendy	Engineer 2 (Islands Division), Civil Engineering and Development Department
Ms LUN Chui-yuen, Janice	Fisheries Officer (Enforcement)1, Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department
Mr FUNG Ho-lam, Chris	Agricultural Officer (Development), Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department
Mr MOK Wah-fun, Peter	Representative, New Lantao Bus Co., (1973) Ltd
Ms Sonja CHAN	Representative, New World First Ferry Services Limited

Secretary

Ms CHAN Nga-chi, Angie	Executive Officer (District Council)2, Islands District Office
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Absent with apologies

Mr WONG Hon-kuen, Ken
Mr KWONG Kwok-kam, BH, JP
Mr WONG King-chuen
Ms Cardi CHUNG

Welcoming remarks

The Chairman welcomed representatives of government departments and organisations as well as Members to the first meeting of the current-term Tourism, Agriculture, Fisheries and Environmental Hygiene Committee and introduced the representatives of government departments and organisations present.

2. Members noted that Mr Ken WONG, Mr KWONG Kwok-kam, Mr WONG King-chuen and Ms Cardi CHUNG were unable to attend the meeting due to other commitments.

I. Question on request for installation of solar street lights on Po Toi Island (Paper TAFEHC 8/2016)

3. The Chairman welcomed Mr Paul AU, Senior Engineer (Works)(2) of Home Affairs Department (HAD) to the meeting. The written reply of the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department had been provided for Members' perusal.

4. Mr Bill TANG presented the question.

5. Mr Paul AU said that a small number of solar street lights were installed on Tung Ping Chau to collect sunlight for use in the night time but their effectiveness had yet to be proven. Tung Ping Chau was of relatively flat terrain with plenty of sunshine while Po Toi Island was mountainous and sunlight might be blocked. Various factors had to be taken into account in the installation of solar street lights, for example, the size of a photovoltaic panel not only affected the light absorption level, but also had a visual impact. Although the degree of sunlight exposure on Po Toi Island was merely half of that on Tung Ping Chau, technically speaking, a trial could be conducted on Poi Toi Island by installing a few solar street lights to explore the feasibility. HAD would conduct a thorough study with the Islands District Office (IsDO) later.

6. Mr Bill TANG enquired whether HAD would install solar street lights on Po Toi Island if the trial proved satisfactory. According to his understanding, the elderly on Po Toi Island transported diesel fuel by themselves to the electricity generator for electricity generation, which supported the street lights on the island. He hoped that the installation of solar street lights would reduce the use of diesel fuel and thus ease the burden of the locals. He asked whether HAD would consider using wind power to generate electricity apart from solar power.

7. Mr Eric KWOK said that the CLP Power Hong Kong Limited (CLP) launched a solar power programme on Dawn Island in Sai Kung with satisfactory results, and suggested HAD to collaborate with CLP to apply the technology to other islands.

8. Ms YU Lai-fan said that Po Toi Island had strong winds and the power company had once installed electricity generating panels on the island but the panels could not withstand the wind. Our local universities had also tried using water to generate electricity on the island but the hydroelectric devices were eventually

washed away. The islanders had to put up with the high electricity cost. Although IsDO had procured two electricity generators for the island, she hoped that HAD would look into ways to help reduce their electricity cost.

9. Mr Paul AU said that the long-term provision of water and electricity was the responsibility of the Water Supplies Department and the power companies, but HAD would strive to provide short-term relief for the residents.

10. Mr Bill TANG appreciated that HAD had made water and electricity supply available to the region. According to his understanding, the Environment Bureau had preliminarily approved the implementation of a large-scale renewable energy programme on Po Toi Island by the Hong Kong Electric Co., Ltd. (Hong Kong Electric). Hong Kong Electric would report the findings to the Government upon completion of the feasibility study. Although the spending on the relevant facilities would be transferred to the customers of Hong Kong Electric, the needs of Po Toi residents had to be taken care of. If the Government installed solar street lights, both the environment and residents would benefit. He hoped that HAD would discuss with different stakeholders the locations of solar street lights after the meeting.

11. Mr Paul AU added that given the high maintenance costs of solar street lights, the Government should study and consider thoroughly to ensure that the associated costs were affordable.

(Mr LOU Cheuk-wing and Ms Janice LUN joined the meeting during the discussion of this agenda item.)

(Mr Paul AU left the meeting after discussion of the agenda item.)

II. Question on request for provision of large-scale refuse collection points in Tung Chung
(Paper TAFEHC 9/2016)

12. The Chairman welcomed Mr Jimmy TONG, Property Service Manager/Service (Wong Tai Sin, Tsing Yi, Tsuen Wan & Islands) of Housing Department (HD) and Mr CHOW Kam-hung, Senior Health Inspector (Cleansing/Pest Control) of Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) to the meeting.

13. Mr Bill TANG presented the question.

14. Mr Jimmy TONG said that there were no large-scale refuse collection points in Yat Tung (II) Estate because a different system of refuse collection was used. Currently, large-sized refuse was transported to the large-scale refuse collection points in Yat Tung (I) Estate by cleansing contractors. Earlier on, many residents disposed of their old furniture, and HD worked with FEHD closely to clear away large-sized refuse and the situation had much improved. All refuse were collected timely and no refuse piled up on passageways or outside the refuse collection points.

15. Mr CHOW Kam-hung said that FEHD was mainly responsible for collecting household waste and large-sized refuse in Yat Tung Estate. HD placed

large-sized refuse at the refuse collection points in car park No. 1 for collection by FEHD contractors on a weekly basis. If more refuse collection points were provided in Yat Tung Estate, FEHD would act to coordinate but arrangements should be made to ensure that suitable road access for refuse trucks was maintained without any obstruction thereon.

16. Mr Eric KWOK enquired about the frequency of large-sized refuse collection and whether the refuse could all be cleared away each time.

17. Mr Bill TANG enquired whether the refuse trucks of FEHD had sufficient capacity to handle the amount of refuse produced by up to 40,000 residents in Yat Tung Estate. As some residents complained about the long distance from Yat Tung (II) Estate to the refuse collection points at car park No. 1, he asked whether other suitable sites could be identified near Yat Tung Estate for provision of public refuse collection points.

18. Mr CHOW Kam-hung said that FEHD arranged grab-mounted lorries to collect large-sized refuse twice a week in Yat Tung Estate and more lorries would be deployed when there was a larger volume of refuse.

19. Mr Bill TANG asked whether FEHD arranged refuse trucks once a week or just one refuse truck twice a week on two separate days to collect refuse in Yat Tung Estate.

20. Mr CHOW Kam-hung added that a grab-mounted lorry was arranged to collect large-sized refuse in Yat Tung Estate every Sunday, but if there was too much refuse for the lorry, it would return to collect the remaining rubbish. For the proposal of providing a large-scale refuse collection point outside Yat Tung Estate, a site should be found inside the estate if it was used to collect refuse produced by the residents living there. The public refuse collection points of FEHD were provided mainly for the use of nearby villages. There was a public refuse collection point in Pa Mei near Yat Tung Estate which was not very big.

21. Mr LAW Wai-hung said that construction waste and large-sized furniture were stacked high at the refuse collection point at the roundabout of Ma Wan New Village, attracting pests. He hoped that FEHD would follow up.

(Post-meeting note: FEHD had deployed more grab-mounted lorries to collect the refuse piled up opposite Pa Mei collection point.)

22. Mr WONG Wai-wan added that since Yat Tung Estate had been completed in 2005, for the past 11 years, residents had been replacing the furniture and a large volume of household refuse was produced in the middle of last year. According to the cleansing contract, only household refuse and large-sized rubbish was collected in areas, i.e. Sai Kung, Kwai Tsing and Tung Chung and the contract ran for five years up to 30 April of the current year. The new contract took effect on 1 May of the current year, providing services in the Islands District and Kwai Tsing. The new contract specified that the cleansing contractor had to ensure that all refuse at the collection points was cleared away no matter the frequency of refuse collection each week. He believed the situation would soon be improved.

23. Mr Bill TANG hoped that FEHD would provide information to the District Council (DC) members of Tung Chung about the communication and complaint channels after appointing the new cleansing contractor.

24. Mr Eric KWOK proposed that the new contractor should work with non-profit organisations to recycle and reuse the discarded furniture so as to relieve the pressure on landfills.

25. Mr WONG Wai-wan said that FEHD launched a glass bottle recycling programme in Islands District in collaboration with the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) and he hoped the programme would further be expanded to cover large-sized furniture.

26. Mr Victor YEUNG added that EPD was committed to reducing waste and encouraged recycling of waste paper, aluminium cans and glass bottles, and there were some non-profit organisations that collected large-sized furniture for reuse. He would refer the proposal to the relevant section for consideration.

27. Mr FAN Chi-ping raised the following comments and enquiries:

- (a) Given its small size and the build-up of refuse at Pa Mei collection point, the problem would worsen if the residents of Yat Tung Estate disposed of refuse there, and also in view of the imminent completion of Home Owners Scheme flats.
- (b) As there was no parking space at the junction of Sheung Ling Pei Village, the refuse collection trucks just parked in the middle of the road, posing danger to the public.
- (c) In Sheung Ling Pei Village, liquid was found leaking from broken rubbish bags or rubbish bins, leaving trails of stinky liquid on the road surface. He hoped that FEHD workers would clean up the road when they came to collect refuse.

28. Mr CHOW Kam-hung gave a consolidated reply as follows:

- (a) Pa Mei Refuse Collection Point was small and near to Yat Tung Estate and was mainly used by nearby villages. FEHD would arrange for grab-mounted lorries to collect waste on a regular basis so as to improve environmental hygiene.
- (b) The Department would instruct the workers to check the hygiene condition of the road and arrange street cleaning vehicles for street cleaning after refuse collection.

29. Mr WONG Man-hon said that he often saw refuse collection trucks parking on the road of Sheung Ling Pei Village for refuse collection. The raising of tailboards to haul refuse would put other drivers at risk. He hoped that FEHD, Highways Department (HyD) and Transport Department would consider providing a

passing place there for public safety.

30. Mr CHOW Kam-hung replied that FEHD would study the matter with the departments concerned.

III. Question on provision for additional pet waste collection facilities
(Paper TAFEHC 10/2016)

31. The Chairman welcomed Mr CHOW Kam-hung, Senior Health Inspector (Cleansing/Pest Control) of FEHD to the meeting.

32. Mr Bill TANG presented the question.

33. Mr CHOW Kam-hung said that many residents liked to walk their dogs near Yu Tung Road and Chung Yan Road in Yat Tung Estate, so FEHD had provided 5 dog excreta collection bins and 13 litter containers there. At the request of Mr Bill TANG, , the Department provided 2 more dog excreta collection bins on Yu Tung Road, and displayed 4 banners on Yu Tung Road and Chung Yan Road advising dog owners to dispose of dog excreta properly and carry water to clean up the place.

34. Mr Bill TANG said that apart from provision of additional facilities, FEHD should take enforcement actions vigorously if any citizen was found not acting with a sense of civic-mindedness.

35. Mr WONG Wai-wan said that banners were displayed to remind the public to act in civic-minded ways. Although it was not against the law to dirty the public places with dog urine, dog owners should be civic-minded and clean the place with water. There were dog excreta collection bins and litter containers for people to dispose of dog excreta. For provision of dog latrines, the construction works took time and approval had to be sought from the Lands Department for land allocation. If there were not enough dog excreta collection bins, the Department would consider providing more facilities for disposal. It was hoped that dog owners would be civic-minded and act in a responsible manner, otherwise it would be futile to provide dog latrines.

36. Mr Bill TANG enquired whether FEHD would identify sites to build dog latrines, and whether it would be against the law if dog owners allowed their dogs to foul the public places and did not dispose of dog excreta properly.

37. Mr WONG Wai-wan explained that it would be against the law if the dog owners did not dispose of dog excreta properly, but not for dog urine. Given the expanse of the Islands District, plain-clothes officers were deployed to carry out patrol 18 times a month, 9 in the morning and 9 in the evening, and the Department would consider increasing the frequency of patrol in the vicinity of Yat Tung Estate and identify suitable sites for providing dog latrines.

38. Mr CHOW Kam-hung said that some dog owners might be reluctant to let their dogs use dog latrines, though the Department would consider building dog latrines if there was a genuine need.

39. Mr CHEUNG Fu also agreed that the construction of dog latrines might not be an effective solution. Dog owners should be self-disciplined, disposing of dog excreta properly and cleaning the place with water.

40. Mr WONG Wai-wan said that the Department would study the construction of dog latrines and Members were welcome to offer their views about site selection.

41. Mr WONG Man-hon suggested FEHD to set up a hotline for members of the public to report cases of dog fouling and the offending dog owners. Members of the public might also provide photos to facilitate prosecution for deterrence.

42. Mr WONG Wai-wan said that the above proposals required due consideration of various factors.

(Post-meeting note: Particulars of the offender concerned and sufficient evidence would be required for FEHD to initiate prosecution.)

43. Mr FAN Chi-ping said that a villager in Ma Wan Chung Village once drove away a dog fouling at his front door, but the dog owner accused him of attempting to intimidate the dog and demanded compensation. He enquired how FEHD would handle such cases as it was not against the law to allow dog fouling.

44. Mr WONG Wai-wan said that FEHD would enforce the law according to the Public Health and Municipal Service Ordinance.

45. The Chairman suggested using images to educate and remind dog owners not to allow their dogs to foul a public place. She enquired about the hotline number.

46. Mr CHOW Kam-hung said that the public could call the Government hotline 1823 to make a report.

(Mr Bill TANG left the meeting after discussion of the agenda item.)

IV. Question on the progress of removing sediments from the seabed of Silvermine Beach (Paper TAFEHC 11/2016)

47. The Chairman welcomed Mr Raymond HAU, Deputy District Leisure Manager (Islands) of Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) to the meeting.

48. Mr WONG Man-hon presented the question.

49. Mr Raymond HAU said that after conducting site inspection with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Mui Wo Rural Committee in March of the current year, LCSD carried out a drainage project at the intersection of Wang Tong River Estuary and Silvermine Beach by phases, including using large sandbags to divert water further away from the bathing area. In mid-March, LCSD removed

sticky sand from the shallow bathing area to the deeper area to avoid sand building up and to enhance the swimming zone. The Department would closely monitor the project and take follow-up actions where necessary.

50. Mr WONG Man-hon was concerned that swimmers might be put at risk if sediments were accumulated in the deep water swimming zone within the area enclosed by shark nets. He hoped that LCSD would remove the sediments.

51. Mr Raymond HAU said that the Department would follow up on the matter.

V. Question on impacts of the construction of Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge on marine environment
(Paper TAFEHC 12/2016)

52. The Chairman welcomed Mr Victor YEUNG, Senior Environmental Protection Officer (Regional South) 5 of EPD and Dr Kitty CHONG, Fisheries Officer (Assessment and Claims) of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) to the meeting. The written response from HyD, FEHD, and Lands Department had been sent to Members for perusal before the meeting.

53. Mr Randy YU presented the question.

54. Mr Victor YEUNG said that an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) had been conducted before the construction of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge (HKZMB) project. According to the EIA report, there was no metal contamination issue in the marine sediments. Besides, the project had taken a series of measures to mitigate the impacts on water quality. For example, before the excavation works for piles, permanent metal casings penetrating into the hard soil/rock layer under the seabed were installed enclosing the piles. The marine piling works were carried out only within the enclosed permanent metal casings, with additional perimeter silt curtains to prevent water pollution. According to the written reply from HyD, the water quality assessment results showed that the project would only have minimal impacts on the nearby water quality and could be controlled within acceptable limits. During the construction period, the contractors employed independent Environmental Teams to establish water quality monitoring stations and conduct water quality monitoring. According to the water quality monitoring data collected since the commencement of marine works, the monitoring stations near Tai O did not detect any exceedance of water quality limit levels in connection with the works. The water quality off the airport did not exhibit any significant changes as well.

55. Mr LOU Cheuk-wing questioned the accuracy of the media reports. There was no scallop production in Tai O and few edible goldfish were bred in salt water. He opined that the fish mentioned in the media reports might probably be long-tailed anchovies, a kind of freshwater fish species. They consumed marine litter and oil spills and their internal organs turned black, which had nothing to do with the project.

56. Mr Randy YU enquired whether the departments concerned would make a clarification that the news report was not based on facts and that the seafood was not produced in Tai O.

57. Dr Kitty CHONG said that they would study whether the issue should be referred to the Press Section for follow-up actions.

58. Ms YU Lai-fan enquired how long it would take for AFCD to make clarifications.

59. Dr Kitty CHONG replied that they had to study the water test results of the EIA to ascertain the impacts on the fisheries industry.

60. The Chairman said that Ms YU Lai-fan would like to know when the EIA report would be released to allay public concerns.

61. Dr Kitty CHONG said that the matters relating to the EIA report would be followed up by EPD.

62. Mr Victor YEUNG mentioned that the EIA report had been approved during the project planning stage and a series of mitigation measures were implemented during the construction period. The public were consulted on the EIA report with the EIA information uploaded onto the internet. During the construction period, HyD also employed environmental personnel to conduct on-site audit and collect seawater samples. The relevant data was uploaded onto the internet regularly.

63. Ms YU Lai-fan said that the media reports had dealt a blow to Tai O and urged the department to make clarifications to avoid negative impacts on the tourism industry in Tai O.

64. The Chairman said that clarifications should be made since the seafood concerned was not produced by Tai O.

65. Mr Randy YU said that since the news report arose as a result of the HKZMB project, HyD should collate the information provided by various departments and give a consolidated response to the reports on pollution of seafood in Tai O.

(Post-meeting notes: HyD had given a written reply in response to the parts concerning the questions on impacts of the construction of HKZMB on marine environment (Questions 1 and 2) prior to the meeting. It was understood that both FEHD and Lands Department had provided written replies to Questions 3 and 4. Therefore, no consolidated reply was required.)

(Dr Kitty CHONG left the meeting after discussion of the agenda item.)

VI. Question on red tides found in Hong Kong waters
(Paper TAFEHC 15/2016)

66. The Chairman welcomed Dr Joanne LEE, Fisheries Officer (Aquaculture Environment) of AFCD, Mr Victor YEUNG, Senior Environmental Protection Officer

(Regional South) 5 of EPD, and Mr Raymond HAU, Deputy District Leisure Manager (Islands) of LCSD to the meeting.

67. Ms Amy YUNG presented the question.

68. Dr Joanne LEE replied as follows:

- (a) In 1999, the Government set up an inter-departmental working group and launched the Red Tide Information Network. The role of AFCD was to receive reports of water discoloration, conduct investigation and assessment and provide information to mariculturists and the departments concerned for follow-up according to the investigation and assessment results. Regarding the recent occurrence of red tides in the southern waters of Hong Kong, AFCD received reports of water discoloration in mid-February and then received similar reports on different parts of the territory in early March. Upon receipt of such reports, AFCD immediately collected seawater samples from the waters concerned for analysis. The analysis results showed that red tides occurred in Deep Water Bay, Discovery Bay (DB), East Lamma Channel, West Lamma Channel, Kwun Yam Wan and Tung Wan Beach in Cheung Chau, Silvermine Beach on Lantau Island, Mui Wo and Peng Chau, as well as the Lo Tik Wan, Cheung Sha Wan and Sok Kwu Wan Fish Culture Zones, and they were formed by nontoxic *Akashiwo sanguinea*. AFCD then immediately sent SMS alerts to the mariculturists in the respective fish culture zones and advised them to take mitigation measures. The department also stepped up monitoring in the waters nearby. Meanwhile, AFCD alerted LCSD and the beaches concerned about the occurrence of red tides. Since DB was not a public beach under the purview of LCSD, the DB Services Management Ltd. was informed for follow-up.
- (b) Red tide was a natural phenomenon, the formation and continuation of which varied depending on various environmental and anthropogenic factors, including water temperature, salinity, nutrients, trace elements and water flow. When red tides occurred, AFCD advised mariculturists to check the fish condition and water colour. The Department of Health also advised the public to stay away from beaches where red tides appeared and avoid contact with red tide water for the sake of health.
- (c) Since 1998, the AFCD had launched the Phytoplankton Monitoring Programme with an aim to monitor the species and population of phytoplankton for early detection of red tides by collecting seawater samples from fish culture zones on a regular basis and to provide timely warning to mariculturists to minimise the impact on the mariculture industry. The programme had served its purpose as an early warning system for mariculturists. A monitoring station had been set up in the waters of West Lamma Channel as an offshore monitoring site to monitor the occurrence of red tides in outer waters. The Department would consider setting up sampling stations at Siu Kau Yi Chau.

69. Mr Raymond HAU said that red tides were found on Kwun Yam Wan and Tung Wan Beach in Cheung Chau, Silvermine Beach and Pui O Beach under LCSD's purview on 5 and 6 March of the current year. LCSD then immediately notified AFCD and EPD, and the staff on site displayed notices warning people against swimming in red tides. Water samples were collected for test and the result confirmed the bloom was *Akashiwo sanguinea*. Red tides receded completely on 18 and 21 March.

70. Mr Victor YEUNG said that EPD monitored water quality and the situation in the surrounding area during red tide incidents, so as to confirm there was no associated water pollution problem.

71. Ms Amy YUNG appreciated the departments' response. A number of reports of red tides had been received in recent years. Given the direct impact of red tides on swimmers and fishermen, she enquired whether the monitoring system revealed a recent upward trend in red tide occurrence.

72. Dr Joanne LEE said that according to the records of AFCD, there were about 20 to 30 incidents of red tides in Hong Kong each year. There was no evidence of an upward trend for the previous five years. The department would continue monitoring red tide occurrences.

(Dr Joanne LEE and Mr Raymond HAU left the meeting after the discussion of the item.)

VII. Question on environmental hygiene of Discovery Bay
(Paper TAFEHC 16/2016)

73. The Chairman welcomed Mr CHOW Kam-hung, Senior Health Inspector (Cleansing/Pest Control) of FEHD to the meeting.

74. Ms Amy YUNG presented the question.

75. Mr CHOW Kam-hung responded as follows:

- (a) The refuse collection points on Discovery Bay Beach and Marina Drive of Discovery Bay were managed by the management company which was also responsible for routine cleansing and pest control, while FEHD provided refuse collection service for the housing estates (including Marine Drive Refuse Collection Point) in Discovery Bay. The contractor of FEHD deployed refuse collection trucks every morning and afternoon to collect household waste at the refuse collection points. As the volume of refuse collected in the afternoon did not reach saturation point, the trucks were able to clear away all refuse there. However, during a site inspection the previous week, FEHD found that the management company disposed of refuse at the refuse collection point after the trucks collected refuse. The refuse would then have to be collected next morning. FEHD did not find the volume of refuse excessive and if the capacity of the trucks was exceeded, the FEHD contractor would be asked to deploy more trucks for

refuse collection.

- (b) For pest problems, the department mobilised staff to visit the beach during Easter holiday and no problem of refuse accumulation or pest was found. Bait was placed at the refuse collection points. However, FEHD opined that there was room for improvement (e.g. accumulating too many recyclables in the refuse collection points), and had asked the management company to step up efforts to clear away and handle refuse properly to prevent pest infestation. The department would continue monitoring the situation.

76. Ms Amy YUNG was pleased that FEHD conducted site inspections and gave a detailed explanation. She said that the activities held during this Easter were of a smaller scale and not much refuse was generated. She had conducted a site visit after the activities were held and was satisfied with the condition of the scene. If large events were held, there would be greater generation of refuse. She understood that the beaches were managed by the management company but FEHD was authorised to exercise supervision. In recent years, the pest problem was getting worse and she had once seen over 30 mice scurrying near the refuse collection points. She enquired whether FEHD was authorised to take prosecution actions if the private estates were not maintained in a clean condition.

77. Mr CHOW Kam-hung said that FEHD could issue nuisance notices requiring the persons-in-charge or owners of estates or buildings to abate nuisance according to the Public Health and Municipal Services Ordinance. Prosecution actions would be taken if the latter failed to comply with the provisions of the notices within the specified period.

78. Mr Holden CHOW said that according to an earlier news report, many mice were found scurrying on the Airport Island at night. He asked about FEHD's rodent control measures taken there.

79. Mr CHOW Kam-hung said that it was the responsibility of the Airport Authority Hong Kong to carry out rodent control in Chek Lap Kok Airport and the whole of Chek Lap Kok. In response to a news report, FEHD conducted site inspection at the airport for rodent surveillance in November last year and advised the airport staff on pest-control measures. The airport switched to another bait and the situation improved obviously.

(Mr CHOW Kam-hung left the meeting after discussion of the agenda item.)

VIII. Cheung Chau Columbarium Extension (Paper TAFEHC 17/2016)

80. The Chairman welcomed Mr LEUNG Yat-king, Superintendent (Cemeteries & Crematoria) and Mr Peter POON, Chief Health Inspector (Cemeteries & Crematoria) of FEHD to the meeting to present the paper.

81. Mr LEUNG Yat-king presented the content of the paper.

82. Mr YUNG Chi-ming supported the extension project. He said that during the construction of the Cheung Chau Columbarium in the past, some residents kept their ancestors' ashes in Taoist temples waiting for allocation of niches upon completion of the columbarium. However, the niches were allocated by ballot, and hence some residents were not successfully allocated with niches. At present, cremation became increasingly acceptable, and the number of cremations was in an increasing trend. He worried that the remaining 490 niches would soon be used up. He hoped that the extension project would be completed early to cope with the public demand. He suggested that the new niches to be allocated on a first-come first-served basis.

83. Mr KWONG Koon-wan said that FEHD might have underestimated the resident' annual demand for niches. If the extension project could not be completed in good time, what happened in two years ago would take place all over again. He hoped that the extension project would be commenced expeditiously.

84. The Chairman said that based on past experience, upon completion of an extension project, a lead time of about half a year would be required for niche allocation. Given that cremation was growing popular, she hoped that the project would be completed as soon as possible.

85. The Committee supported the project proposal and requested FEHD to commence the project as soon as possible.

86. Mr LOU Cheuk-wing enquired why FEHD did not allow Tai O Lung Ngam Monastery to sell niches since last year.

87. Mr LEUNG Yat-king replied that the said columbarium was not managed by FEHD and hence no such information was available on hand. The relevant information would be provided to TAFEHC after the meeting.

(Post-meeting note: According to the information, the columbarium of Lung Ngam Monastery, situated on Tai O Road, Lantau Island is a private columbarium set out in Part A of the Information on Private Columbaria (the List) released by the Development Bureau. Part A of the List sets out the private columbaria which are compliant with the user restrictions in the land leases and the statutory town planning requirements and are not illegally occupying Government land.

On 18 June 2014, the Government announced the introduction of the Private Columbaria Bill (the Bill), which proposes to establish a licensing regime to regulate the operation of private columbaria. The Bill was under scrutiny by the Legislative Council. Upon passage of the Bill, the operator of a private columbarium will have to obtain a licence for operating the columbarium and selling (including letting out) the interment rights. However, all pre-Bill columbaria (which commence operation before 1990) can apply for an exemption or a

temporary suspension of liability (TSOL) provided that they cease selling the interment rights amid the operation. In order to facilitate an application for the exemption or TSOL in future, some operators might select to cease selling the interment rights. That would be purely a matter of personal or business decision. The Government would not play any part in their relevant decision.

(Mr LEUNG Yat-king and Mr Peter POON left the meeting after discussion of the agenda item.)

IX. Market Management Consultative Committee of the Public Markets under Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
(Paper TAFEHC 7/2016)

88. The Chairman welcomed Mr KWAN Yau-kee, Chief Health Inspector (Islands)² of FEHD to the meeting to present the paper.

89. Mr KWAN Yau-kee presented the paper.

90. The Chairman proposed the appointment of the Chairman of Peng Chau Rural Committee, Mr Ken WONG, as a member of the Peng Chau Market Management Consultative Committee, Mr WONG Man-hon as a member of the Mui Wo Market, Mui Wo Cooked Food Market and Tai O Market Management Consultative Committee, and Mr KWONG Koon-wan and Mr YUNG Chi-ming as members of the Cheung Chau Market and Cheung Chau Cooked Food Market Management Consultative Committee.

91. Members agreed with the appointment of the above members to the respective Market Management Consultative Committees.

(Mr KWAN Yau-kee left the meeting after discussion of the agenda item.)

X. District Action Plan of Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
(Paper TAFEHC 19/2016)

92. The Chairman welcomed Mr WONG Wai-wan, District Environmental Hygiene Superintendent (Islands) of FEHD to the meeting to present the paper.

93. Mr WONG Wai-wan presented the paper.

94. Ms Amy YUNG said she had made a proposal to the Secretary for Food and Health the previous year on erecting fences at the perimeter of Sam Pak Wan Beach to ensure the safety of residents and FEHD staff when cleaning up the beach.

95. Mr Holden CHOW proposed the area outside Tung Chung Post Office to be identified as a hygiene black spot to monitor the hygiene condition. He also requested the establishment of a public market managed by FEHD in Tung Chung to

tie in with the development and the growing population in the area.

96. Mr Eric KWOK said dogs were found fouling in the rear section of Yu Tung Road near Fuk Yat House, Yat Tung (I) Estate and asked whether the place was under the purview of FEHD.

97. Mr Randy YU hoped that the relevant departments would identify Pun Lo Pang at Shek Tsai Po Street, Tai O as a grey area of prime public concern and Kwan Tai Temple Square as a hygiene black spot.

98. Vice-Chairman Ms Sammi FU enquired whether a large-scale refuse collection point would be set up in Tung Chung East beside Ying Hei Road.

(Post-meeting note: There was a FEHD refuse collection point at Cheung Tung Road, Tung Chung at present and a refuse collection point would be set up in the future Tung Chung East New Development Area to tie in with the development.)

99. Mr CHOW Yuk-tong said that the aqua privy provided on Po Toi Island was in poor hygiene condition especially during Tin Hau Festival when the usage rate went up. He hoped FEHD would monitor the situation and make improvement.

100. Mr LAW Wai-hung enquired with FEHD about the timetable for conversion of the aqua privy in Shek Lau Po Village, Tung Chung into a flushing toilet.

101. The Chairman gave her views as follows:

- (a) She urged FEHD to expedite the aqua privies conversion project to improve the sanitary condition. She was however pleased that the male-to-female toilet compartment ratio of the public toilets of FEHD was 1:2 to address the public needs.
- (b) She requested FEHD to monitor the black spots of illegal feeding of wild animal activities to avoid environmental hygiene nuisance.
- (c) She hoped that the Cheung Chau Pier would be identified as a grey area of prime public concern and that FEHD and the Marine Department would join hands to clear garbage in nearshore waters.

102. Mr Eric KWOK urged FEHD to step up bilingual publicity and public education on prevention of street fouling by dogs near Ham Tin Village, Pui O.

103. Mr WONG Wai-wan gave a consolidated reply as follows:

- (a) With regard to Mr Holden CHOW's proposal of establishing a public market in Tung Chung, the issue fell within the policy purview of the Food and Health Bureau and required consideration of all relevant factors.

Consultation would be conducted by the Legislative Council and the Planning Department in May of the current year on the establishment of a public market in Tung Chung.

- (b) There were plans to convert or *in-situ* refurbish the five aqua privies in Islands District. Funding approval had been obtained for conversion of the aqua privy in Shek Lau Po, Tung Chung and the project for Sha Lo Wan would commence in the second half of 2016 to convert aqua privy into a flushing toilet. Refurbishment works for the aqua privies on Po Toi Island, Ha Ling Pei of Tung Chung and Nam Tung of Tai O would also be carried out. The aqua privies in Ko Long, Lamma Island and Pui O San Wai Village were closed and would be demolished after the Architectural Services Department (ArchSD) completed assessment and funding approval was obtained. The aqua privies in Lower Keung Shan and Tong Fuk would also be demolished.
- (c) Regarding the comments of Mr Eric KWOK, the department would consider deploying plain-clothes staff to patrol at Ham Tin, Pui O and review the strategy and enforcement actions to tackle dog fouling.
- (d) Other Members' views would be examined and followed up accordingly.

104. Mr Eric KWOK said that apart from stepping up patrol by plain-clothes staff, he proposed distributing leaflets to dog owners and asked whether Fuk Yat House, Yat Tung (I) Estate would be included in the enforcement area.

(Post-meeting note: FEHD supplemented that a section of Yu Tung Road opposite Fuk Yat House, Yat Tung (I) Estate was included in the enforcement area.)

105. Mr CHEUNG Fu said that the aqua privy conversion project of Pui O San Wai Village had not commenced despite years of preparation. He asked about the timetable of the project.

106. Mr WONG Wai-wan said that the department had been following up on the conversion project of Pui O San Wai Village but ArchSD did not have the foundation layout plan for delivery of the project. The project cost had increased from \$1 million to \$2.5 million. After funding approval was obtained, the project would commence.

(Mr KWONG Koon-wan left the meeting after discussion of the agenda item.)

XI. First Batch of Proposed Projects under District Minor Works of Tourism, Agriculture, Fisheries and Environmental Hygiene Committee for 2016/2017
(Paper TAFEHC 18/2016)

107. The Chairman welcomed Mr Tommy TANG, Senior Inspector of Works, IsDO to the meeting to present the paper.

108. Mr Tommy TANG presented the paper.

109. Members endorsed the allocation of \$3,530,000 for carrying out the proposed projects.

XII. Progress Report on DC-funded District Minor Works Projects
(Paper TAFEHC 13/2016)

110. The Chairman welcomed Mr Tommy TANG, Senior Inspector of Works, IsDO to the meeting to present the paper.

111. Mr Tommy TANG reported the latest progress of the projects below:

(a) Restoration of the raw water supply system at Mui Wo (IS-DMW-577)

The Mui Wo Rural Committee reported recently that a water pipe near Pak Ngan Heung and Tseng Tau was found damaged and replacement of the water pipe was incorporated into the project. The estimated project cost increased correspondingly from \$2,000,000 to \$2,600,000.

(b) Construction of footpath at Fan Lau Tung Wan (IS-DMW-614)

The tender process was completed. Tenders were being assessed and works would commence as soon as possible.

112. Members and the guests discussed the projects below. The main points were as follows:

(a) Provision of rainshelter near lamp post no. FC2098 at Man Tung Road, Tung Chung (IS-DMW-648)

Mr Holden CHOW enquired about the content of the project.

Mr Tommy TANG said that the sketch design had been sent to Mr Holden CHOW's office for comments. The tender process was expected to begin in April of the current year and the works would commence later in the year.

113. Members endorsed the progress report.

XIII. Report by Working Group

(i) Tourism, Agriculture, Fisheries and Environmental Hygiene Committee Activities Working Group

114. The Chairman said that the Working Group Report had been faxed or emailed to Members for perusal prior to the meeting (see Annex 1 for details). She asked Members to comment on the report.

115. Members had no comment and endorsed the report.

Islands District Healthy City Working Group

116. The Chairman said that the Working Group Report had been faxed or emailed to Members for perusal prior to the meeting (see Annex 2 for details). She asked Members to comment on the report.

117. Members had no other comment and endorsed the report.

XIV. Any other business

118. Members did not raise any other business.

XV. Date of Next Meeting

119. The meeting adjourned at 4:12 pm. The next meeting would be held at 2:00 p.m. on 30 May 2016 (Monday).

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