

(Translation)

Minutes of Meeting of Islands District Council

Date : 4 September 2017 (Monday)
Time : 2:00 p.m.
Venue : Islands District Council Conference Room,
14/F, Harbour Building, 38 Pier Road, Central, Hong Kong.

Present

Chairman

Mr CHOW Yuk-tong, SBS

Vice-Chairman

Mr YU Hon-kwan, Randy, JP

Members

Mr YUNG Chi-ming, BBS
Mr CHAN Lin-wai
Mr CHEUNG Fu
Mr WONG Hon-kuen, Ken
Mr FAN Chi-ping
Mr LOU Cheuk-wing
Mr WONG Man-hon
Ms YU Lai-fan
Ms LEE Kwai-chun
Ms YUNG Wing-sheung, Amy
Mr TANG Ka-piu, Bill, JP
Mr KWONG Koon-wan
Mr CHOW Ho-ding, Holden
Ms TSANG Sau-ho, Josephine
Mr KWOK Ping, Eric
Ms FU Hiu-lam, Sammi

Attendance by Invitation

Mr LAM Tin-sing, Enoch, JP
Mr CHUNG Wing-kee, Philip

Mr LIN Tang-tai
Mr LAO Yin
Dr David SUN

Mr Donald LI
Ms SZETO Hau-yan, Esther

Mr HO Kwok-fai, Godfrey

Mr PANG Chi-chiu
Mr CHEUNG Pok
Mr MAK Shui-wing

Mr LEE Tin-shing

Mr YEUNG Wai-tak, Victor

Dr LEUNG Kai-ming, Kenneth

Ms TSANG Kit-ying

Mr WONG Cheuk-kee, Edward

Mr Brian Choi
Mr Matthew NG

Director of Water Supplies, Water Supplies Department
Chief Engineer/Hong Kong and Islands,
Water Supplies Department
Senior Engineer/Planning Policy, Water Supplies Department
Electrical Engineer/Projects, Water Supplies Department
Deputy Hospital Chief Executive of North Lantau Hospital,
Hospital Authority
Chief Manager (Capital Planning), Hospital Authority
Property Service Manager/Service (Hong Kong Island and
Islands 3), Housing Department
Senior Engineer (Islands Division),
Civil Engineering and Development Department
Senior Engineer/HZMB, Highways Department
Senior Engineer/HZMB, Highways Department
Marine Manager/Licensing & Port Formalities (2),
Marine Department
Acting Senior Assistant Shipping Master/Pollution Control
Unit, Marine Department
Senior Environmental Protection Officer (Mega Project),
Environmental Protection Department
Senior Environmental Protection Officer (Air Science),
Environmental Protection Department
Divisional Commander (Cheung Chau),
Hong Kong Police Force
Senior Fisheries Officer (Enforcement),
Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department
GoBee.Bike (Public Affairs Manager)
GoBee.Bike (Operations Consultant)

In Attendance

Mr LI Ping-wai, Anthony, JP
Mr AU Sheung-man, Benjamin
Ms CHONG Yan-ye, Belinda
Mr FONG Kai-kit, Frankie
Ms LO Wai-ling, Fanny
Mr LAM Wai-chuen, Eddie

Mr SIU Yee-lin, Richard

Mrs CHEUNG LO Pik-yuk, Helen

Mr LI Kin-nga, Denis
Mr WONG Tat-ming

District Officer (Islands), Islands District Office
Assistant District Officer (Islands)1, Islands District Office
Assistant District Officer (Islands)2, Islands District Office
Senior Liaison Officer (1), Islands District Office
Acting Senior Liaison Officer (2), Islands District Office
Acting Chief Engineer (Islands),
Civil Engineering and Development Department
Acting District Planning Officer (Sai Kung and Islands),
Planning Department
Chief Manager/Management (Hong Kong Island and Islands),
Housing Department
District Lands Officer (Islands), Lands Department
Administrative Assistant (Lands/Islands), Lands Department

Mr LAM Ding-fung	District Social Welfare Officer (Central Western, Southern and Islands), Social Welfare Department
Mrs MAK LAU Wai-mun, Josephine	District Commander (Lantau), Hong Kong Police Force
Mr LEUNG Chung-ting	Acting District Commander (Marine Port), Hong Kong Police Force
Mr CHAN Chun	Police Community Relations Officer (Lantau District), Hong Kong Police Force
Mr YUEN King-ho	Police Community Relations Officer (Marine Port District), Hong Kong Police Force
Mr MOK Ying-kit, Kenneth	Chief Transport Officer/New Territories South West, Transport Department
Mr KWAN Yau-kee	District Environmental Hygiene Superintendent (Islands), Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
Mr CHAU Chun-wing, Tomy	District Leisure Manager (Islands), Leisure and Cultural Services Department

Secretary

Ms Candy CHAN	Senior Executive Officer (District Council), Islands District Office
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#### **Welcoming remarks**

The Chairman welcomed Members and representatives of the government departments to the meeting and introduced the following representatives of government departments who attended the meeting:

- (a) Mr LAM Wai-chuen, Eddie, Acting Chief Engineer (Islands) of Civil Engineering and Development Department (CEDD) who attended the meeting in place of Mr WONG Kwok-fai, Alfred;
- (b) Mr LEUNG Chung-ting, Acting District Commander (Marine Port) of Hong Kong Police Force who attended the meeting in place of Mr Richard Brinsley Sheridan;
- (c) Mr SIU Yee-lin, Richard, Acting District Planning Officer (Sai Kung and Islands) of Planning Department (PlanD) who attended the meeting in place of Ms TAM Yin-ping, Donna; and
- (d) Mr AU Sheung-man, Benjamin, Assistant District Officer (Islands) and Mr FONG Kai-kit, Frankie, Senior Liaison Officer of Islands District Office (IsDO).

- I. Visit of the Director of Water Supplies to Islands District Council  
II. Question on fencing off the water gathering ground at Shui Lo Cho, Tai O  
(Paper IDC 86/2017)

2. The Chairman welcomed Director of Water Supplies Mr LAM Tin-sing, Enoch, JP to the meeting for meeting and exchange with Members. He was also pleased to welcome Mr CHUNG Wing-kee, Philip, Chief Engineer/Hong Kong and Islands, Mr LIN Tang-tai, Senior Engineer/Planning Policy as well as Mr LAO Yin Electrical Engineer/Projects of Water Supplies Department (WSD).

3. Mr Enoch LAM introduced the total water management strategy, including water supply in Hong Kong, exploiting new water resources, water conservation, water loss management strategy, application of new technology as well as environmental management programmes.

4. The Chairman said Item II was relevant to WSD and suggested that the item be discussed concurrently.

5. The Vice-chairman Mr Randy YU presented the question.

6. Mr LOU Cheuk-wing expressed his views as follows:

- (a) People started visiting the water gathering ground (WGG) in Shui Lo Cho (dubbed “infinity pool”) a few years ago and some even swam there in summer. Earlier, he learned that some organisations called on people online to visit the pool on 15 July this year, and reported to the Police for follow-up. The WGG in Shui Lo Cho was not just a catchment but a water source, supplying drinking water directly to Tai O residents.
- (b) Tai O residents were worried about contamination of drinking water and had requested WSD for years for fencing off the WGG, but the problem had not yet been resolved.
- (c) Water was now delivered from Shek Pik Reservoir and the WGG in Shui Lo Cho to Tai O Water Treatment Works through pipelines. They were the sources of drinking water for Tai O. If the department could not solve the water quality problem in the WGG, he hoped it would stop supplying water from the WGG and instead provide drinking water to Tai O residents from Shek Pik Reservoir directly. Announcement should also be made to inform residents that Shui Lo Cho was no longer the source of drinking water for Tai O to ease their concern.

7. Mr Ken WONG expressed his views as follows:
- (a) Islands District was facing the problem of repair responsibility for burst water pipes. He hoped WSD would clarify the responsibility for burst pipes in the public place, in front and behind the water meters. He said, for example, residents had time and again reported to WSD and DC members a burst pipe in front of a meter but the department said the water pipe was installed by the developer and should be maintained by the property owners, while the latter believed that the water pipe which was on government land was not their responsibility. As the department did not assign its staff to shut the valve, drinking water kept running, resulting in water waste. He hoped WSD would look into the matter and repair burst pipes in rural areas or those with unclear title first.
  - (b) He asked WSD whether there was any timetable for providing water supply to Nim Shue Wan. At present half the households within the village drank water from the mountain river. IsDO originally planned to install water pipes for the village in April this year, but the plan was put on hold due to the implementation of WSD's water supply project. He hoped that WSD could provide a water supply schedule as early as possible and IsDO install water pipes promptly as planned if WSD's project could not be implemented in the near future.
8. Mr CHEUNG Fu said that requests for water supply to Tai Long Village, South Lantau had been made for years. WSD replied that owing to the sparse population and significant costs involved, it could not install water pipes in the village. In the absence of tap water supply, there was a lack of drinking water in dry seasons. He proposed that WSD collaborate and coordinate with CLP for connecting water pipes via the existing CLP tunnels to provide tap water to villagers.
9. Mr CHAN Lin-wai said water tariff was now imposed for industrial water consumption. As much water was used in farming, he asked if concessions could be granted to farmers and whether there was any arrangement in Hong Kong for free water consumption.
10. Mr Bill TANG expressed his views as follows:
- (a) He was the convenor of Working Group on Treated Water Supply to Remote Areas in Islands District which had been following up the discussion on the supply of treated water to eight villages in the district without tap water supply. Some had a larger population (e.g. Nim Shue Wan) while others were sparsely populated (e.g. Tai Long Village), and some were situated in tourist spots (e.g. Po Toi). The department indicated that 99.9% of Hong Kong's population had access to tap water supply. Those without water supply were mostly living in Islands District. He requested the department to provide a

specific timetable for providing water supply to the above eight villages/places.

- (b) WSD was committed to water conservation but the media and environmentalists accused the Government of wasting drinking water. He asked about the amount of water discharged from the catchment areas and reservoirs last year due to overflow and if the raw water discharged could be converted into drinking water.
- (c) On exploiting new water resources, he asked whether strategic studies were conducted to identify suitable sites in Hong Kong for building desalination plants, the percentage of drinking water produced locally and whether a target had been set in this regard.

11. Mr Eric KWOK expressed his views as follows:

- (a) He opined that the importation of water from Dongjiang was costly. According to information available, the cost of Dongjiang water increased from \$2.49 billion in 2006 to \$4.8 billion in 2017. The use of fresh water for flushing in Tung Chung was not because of a small population but because at present there was no suitable site in the reclamation area for building a seawater pumping station. Under the Tung Chung New Town Extension project, the population of Tung Chung would grow from approximately 100 000 now to 240 000 in ten years. The issue of fresh water flushing could not be deferred any longer to avoid wasting drinking water. He hoped the relevant departments such as WSD and PlanD would discuss the feasibility of constructing a seawater pumping station instead of waiting until the completion of the reclamation work.
- (b) Storage ponds were used in Hong Kong satisfactorily for flood prevention. He asked whether the water in storage ponds would be re-used or discharged into sea.
- (c) He supported collecting used water at home and pointed out that Singapore people collected the used water and rainwater which, after decontamination, could be used for car washing, watering plants and toilet flushing. He asked whether Hong Kong would follow Singapore's example to keep up with technological development.

12. Ms Amy YUNG expressed her views as follows:

- (a) WSD mentioned that water imported from Dongjiang accounted for 80% of Hong Kong's total fresh water consumption, which she considered a very high percentage. Prior to 1999, Discovery Bay had its own reservoir which could meet the demand of 25 000 people. Later, for the sake of future development, treated water was provided by WSD and residents were charged higher rates. She enquired

whether WSD would encourage private developments (especially large-scale private developments in Islands District) to have their own reservoirs and catchment areas in the long run.

- (b) Agreement had been reached between the Government and the Mainland on the quantity, quality and price of Dongjiang water supply. She opined that the quantity of Dongjiang water supply at present far exceeded the local needs. On water quality, the water came from the source of Dongjiang and she believed it was of better quality. However, the water price was unacceptable. Singapore and Malaysia, for instance, purchased water at a much lower price. Although in the same country, Hong Kong had to pay a substantial sum to purchase drinking water from the Mainland.
- (c) On aging private water pipes, she appreciated the efforts of WSD in detecting aging pipes and water leaks using advanced technology and referential statistics. In addition, communication was maintained with the property management offices of large estates to detect leakage to avoid water loss. She hoped WSD would strengthen communication with the property management offices and advise on the use of new technology to avoid water loss.

13. Mr Enoch LAM made a consolidated reply as follows:

Shui Lo Cho WGG in Yi O

- (a) He understood the residents' concern over water quality or contamination in the infinity pool as people were found swimming there. The water in Shui Lo Cho was untreated and would not be supplied to residents directly. The raw water in the infinity pool would be conveyed to Tai O Treatment Works for a series of stringent treatment processes (for removal of impurities and bacteria, etc.). The treated water will be monitored and tested to ensure fully compliance with the World Health Organization's Guidelines for Drinking Water Quality before providing for public consumption.
- (b) WSD attached great importance to water resources in WGG and implemented various measures to safeguard its quality against pollution. Security guards have been deployed at Shui Lo Cho since September 2014 on Saturdays/Sundays as well as during public holidays from May to June and every day from July to early December. Notices were also erected to warn people against swimming there to prevent water pollution and prosecution actions would be taken.
- (c) In the morning of 10 June this year, two persons were found swimming in the WGG in Shui Lo Cho and were later convicted on 24 July for contravening the Waterworks Ordinance and causing pollution to the water resources. The case was publicised via news.gov.hk and the

local leading newspapers to deter people from violating the law. On 15 July this year, WSD and the Police conducted a surprise raid on the infinity pool but no activities in contravention of the Waterworks Ordinance or leading to water pollution were detected.

- (d) Regarding the proposal for fencing off the WGG, the department considered that the construction of high fences at the dams of the WGG was feasible but they might obstruct hikers from enjoying the natural scenery. WSD would consult the District Council on the design of fences. If Members considered that there were more benefits than drawbacks after studying the design, it would proceed with the works.
- (e) The department would also study whether surveillance cameras should be installed to monitor the situation. It would proactively improve the management measures and hoped that the District Council would give support.

#### Burst of private water pipes

- (f) Water pipes within the boundaries of private land were part of inside service. Those communal pipes before the meters (e.g. underground pipes) should be maintained by the registered agents (e.g. property management offices) while those pipes serving the registered consumers after the meters should be maintained by the respective registered consumers. Water pipes situated on the government land beyond the boundaries of private land shall be maintained by the Government and WSD would repair the leaking pipes immediately. Leakages in pipes within the boundary of private land were leaks of the inside service and the repair responsibility fell on the registered agents (e.g. property management officers) or registered consumers. According to the Waterworks Ordinance, the Water Authority and any authorised person may enter private premises for carrying out the repair immediately in case of urgency, e.g. substantial wastage of water due to serious leakage. For those non-urgent cases, the consent of the occupier of the premises or a warrant had to be obtained first in order to carry out the repairs and the cost of such repairs would be recovered from the consumers afterwards. Members receiving such complaints could refer them to the department for follow-up.

#### Water supply in remote villages

- (g) The Government had been paying attention to the water supply in remote villages and kept it under regular review. WSD had been conducting studies on ways to improve the water supply for over 700 villages throughout the territory since 1980. After more than 20 years of hard work, it had managed to provide tap water supply for 724 villages by the end of 2016. Over the past ten years or so, 23 remote villages were provided with treated water supply system to meet their needs. The Government would continue to closely monitor

and regularly review the situation of the remaining remote villages without treated water supply.

- (h) Generally speaking, the villages which did not have treated water supply would have access to systems that supplied stream or well water for domestic consumption. These supply systems had been in use for many years. Most of them are under the maintenance of the Home Affairs Department. The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) also regularly monitored and tested the stream or well water quality to ascertain its suitability for potable consumption. In the event of water depletion at source, the Government would provide assistance, including transporting potable water to meet the needs of villagers.
- (i) As for Nim Shue Wan, the relevant design of treated water supply system was underway. Upon completion of the design, WSD would seek resources for taking forward the construction works.
- (j) Tai Long Village was sparsely populated. The per capita capital cost for construction of treated water supply system was high. Low consumption would also lead to stagnant water in the pipes resulting in deterioration of water quality. For co-operation with CLP, the department would study with CLP the technical feasibility of using its tunnel for laying water pipes and the relevant legal issues.

#### Water charges

- (k) In Hong Kong, the first 12 cubic metres were supplied to households free of charge, which was not common overseas. The water charges had not been raised since 1995, and WSD would study whether water charges should be adjusted.

(Post-meeting note: Shap Long Irrigation Reservoir was situated on South Lantau in Islands District. The raw water therein was provided free of charge via the irrigation facilities of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) to the farmers in the vicinity for irrigation.)

#### Overflows from reservoirs

- (l) Owing to topographical and capacity constraints, the reservoirs in Hong Kong might overflow during the rainy seasons. The amount of overflow from reservoirs last year was about 30 million cubic metres. The amount of overflow varied with the rainfall of the year. It involves substantial capital costs to construct impounding reservoirs and the cost-effectiveness of capital investment should be considered. If an over-sized reservoir was constructed to completely avoid any overflow from it, the extra storage capacity would be of no use most of the time, which was not an ideal way to utilise our land.

#### Seawater flushing in Tung Chung

- (m) WSD had been following up on the construction of Tung Chung sea water pumping station, which was now at the design stage. In view of the growing population in Tung Chung and the reclamation works and other projects underway, WSD will coordinate with relevant parties to complete the relevant facilities in the coming years for providing seawater for flushing in Tung Chung.

#### Collection and recycling of rainwater

- (n) For the use of rainwater collected in storage ponds and drainage channels, WSD and the Drainage Services Department (DSD) had conducted studies and found that the water was contaminated and had to be treated before use. The result revealed that harvesting rainwater in large scale would not be cost-effective. The amount of water collected in the storage ponds and drainage channels was not stable and technical issues such as water treatment and design of water supply system as well as the locations of storage tanks had to be considered. To his knowledge, DSD was implementing a pilot scheme of treating and reuse of some water in the storage pond collected in Happy Valley for non-potable uses such as irrigation and toilet flushing. DSD would continue exploring ways to extend rainwater reuse for non-potable purposes.
- (o) DSD also planned to launch a pilot scheme for rainwater harvesting in the Anderson Road Quarry Site Development.

#### Desalination and Reclaimed Water

- (p) Water imported from Dongjiang accounted for approximately 70-80 percent of our fresh water consumption. To cope with climate change, the department had considered to develop alternative water resources which are less susceptible to climate change: seawater desalination and reclaimed water (converted from tertiary treated effluent of sewage treatment works). It was expected that the percentage of the above alternative water resources in Hong Kong's total water consumption would increase progressively in the long run though Dongjiang water would remain an important water source.
- (q) In addition to Tseung Kwan O, WSD had studied suitable sites in other areas for construction of desalination plants. It was hoped that upon the commissioning of the first desalination plant, the department would have a better grasp on the reverse osmosis technology and the operation of seawater desalination before considering the way forward.

#### Cost of purchasing Dongjiang water

- (r) Importing water from Dongjiang for fresh water supply was less costly than building a desalination plant. The production cost of

desalination was about \$13 per cubic metre compared with about \$9 for Dongjiang water.

- (s) According to information available, under the water agreement between Malaysia and Singapore, the latter had to pay for the lease of the catchment area and reservoir site in addition to the cost of raw water. Singapore also had to build, operate and maintain at its own costs the dams, reservoir and ancillary facilities. In addition, Singapore was required to supply treated fresh water to Malaysia at a low cost. The water agreements for Hong Kong and Singapore could not be compared.

#### Private water supply to private developments

- (t) Provision of private water supply to private developments might be associated with the land lease signed in the early years. In some small-scale new residential developments, minor sewage treatment systems were installed for treatment and reuse of sewage effluent.

#### Underground water leakage on private property

- (u) WSD had maintained close liaison with the Hong Kong Association of Property Management Companies over the past year to address underground water leaks on private property. With the introduction of new technology and rapid development in underground pipe detection services, there would be sufficient contractors on the market providing relevant services and the costs involved would be reduced. WSD would adopt the carrot-and-stick approach to handle water leakage, including publicity campaigns to raise awareness of property management companies of proper maintenance of private piping, as well as enforcement actions against unco-operative responsible persons in accordance with the Waterworks Ordinance (e.g. cutting water supply) when dealing with leaking pipes on private property. Members of the public were beginning to understand the need to repair leaks on underground pipes as well as the enforcement actions and the new technology to handle leaking pipes.

14. The Vice-chairman Mr Randy YU said that Tai O residents had seen security guards stationed in Shui Lo Cho but suspected swimmers always appeared after they went off duty (about 5 p.m.). WSD only prosecuted once over these years which carried little deterrent effect. He hoped the Director would note the situation. Although Tai O residents knew that raw water in Shui Lo Cho would be treated in water treatment works before distribution for their use, they were concerned if it contained excretions and whether it was clean enough. He pointed out that Singaporeans mainly used reclaimed water for irrigation, not for drinking. The last-term District Councillor of the relevant constituency had requested to fence off Shui Lo Cho and Tai O Rural Committee also made the same request repeatedly. As WSD had identified the exact location preliminarily, he believed the hikers would have no objection if the proposed enclosure area was not too big. If relevant information was provided, he hoped Members could decide whether to support the

proposal to fence off Shui Lo Cho. Otherwise, he concurred with Mr LOU Cheuk-wing that Tai O residents would drink water from Shek Pik Reservoir until Shui Lo Cho was enclosed.

15. Mr Ken WONG urged the department to provide the timetable for providing water supply to Nim Shu Wan. As WSD planned to install a tap water supply system in Nim Shu Wan, the District Office deferred its planned project to avoid duplication of work. Villagers had demanded for pipe connection from Discovery Bay for years so that the remaining half of the village could have water supply. If the water programme of WSD could not be completed within five years, he hoped the planned project of the District Office could commence. He was dissatisfied that WSD was slow at making decisions after conducting studies, leaving the villagers without access to tap water.

16. Mr CHEUNG Fu said that Tai Long Village was sparsely populated because of lacking access to water supply. Its water source had dried up and no one would want to live there. He had earlier asked the engineer of WSD about the progress of discussion with CLP, but to no avail. He requested the Director to follow up on the matter promptly.

17. Ms Amy YUNG expressed her views as follows:

- (a) In 1999, 99% of the residents in Discovery Bay objected to the supply of drinking water by the Government but their views were ignored and eventually WSD supplied water. The residents lost their 5% rates concession. During the whole consultation, only the developer representatives could take part and the residents were not consulted at all. She had been following up on the matter with WSD as the residents had to pay more, which was unfair to them.
- (b) According to the prevailing policy of WSD, the Government was responsible for the water pipes outside the boundary of the development. However, the residents were required to pay the electricity bill of the pumping station outside Discovery Bay for providing water to Discovery Bay. In addition, the pipes were laid across the Government land outside Discovery Bay, and the Lands Department (LandsD) charged about \$800,000 premium per annum. This was unfair to the residents and she hoped the Director would follow up or reflect the matter to the Bureau. She would continue to follow up on the matter.
- (c) She reiterated that the whole arrangement, discussion and consultation process were extremely unfair to the residents. She criticised that WSD paid no heed to the residents' objection, which amounted to forcing them to use the fresh water supplied by the Government. She was the last one to accept the arrangement as WSD issued her a warning letter, saying that it would cut the fresh water supply if she refused to sign. She criticised the policy and the way the matter was handled at that time. She hoped the Director would reflect the matter to the upper

echelon of the Government and follow up on the matter. She would also bring up the matter for discussion at the Legislative Council (LegCo).

18. Mr Enoch LAM made a consolidated response that the department would consult Members on the location and design for enclosure of Shui Lo Cho, Yi O at its main entrance in due course. Regarding the water supply to Nim Shu Wan, WSD would discuss and follow up with the District Office in due course. For using the tunnel of CLP, WSD had begun to discuss the technical feasibility with CLP. The water supply arrangement for Discovery Bay in 1999 might be subject to the provisions of land grant and he would check about it.

(Post-meeting note: With regard to the water supply to Nim Shu Wan and Tai Long Village, the representative of WSD had reported at the fourth meeting of the Working Group on Treated Water Supply to Remote Areas in Islands District on 20 September 2017 that no concrete timetable for water supply was available at the moment. As to the background information paper on the water arrangement for Discovery Bay in 1999, it was distributed to Members for perusal via the IDC Secretariat on 4 October 2017.)

(Mr LOU Cheuk-wing and Mr WONG Man-hon joined the meeting at about 2:15 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. respectively.)

### III. Confirmation of the Minutes of Meeting held on 26 June 2017

19. The Chairman said that the above minutes had incorporated the amendments proposed by the government departments and Members, and had been distributed to Members for perusal before the meeting.

20. The captioned minutes were confirmed unanimously without amendment.

### IV. Development Plan of North Lantau Hospital Phase II (Paper IDC 84/2017)

21. The Chairman welcomed David SUN, Deputy Hospital Chief Executive of North Lantau Hospital (NLTH) and Mr Donald LI, Chief Manager (Capital Planning) of Hospital Authority (HA).

22. Mr David SUN presented the paper.

23. Mr Holden CHOW expressed his views as follows:

- (a) He understood that there was a need for support services for the medical services. As such, he gave support for the construction of a support centre for Phase II NLTH, providing laundry and patient

catering services, etc. to support the operation of public hospitals (including NLTH) throughout the territory.

- (b) Regarding the site reserved for Phase II NLTH project, given that a number of organisations had submitted proposals earlier, he enquired whether HA could designate part of the idle grassland for temporary recreational purpose for use by local residents.
- (c) Besides the Phase II development, he hoped NLTH could speed up the provision of more specialty services (including nephrological, urological and pediatric services etc.) to meet the needs of residents in Tung Chung. Residents now had to travel long distances to Princess Margaret Hospital for follow up and found it extremely inconvenient.

24. Ms Amy YUNG said that when Phase I NLTH was built back then, there were plans to introduce public-private partnership for Phase II development. She asked whether there were any changes to the development direction.

25. Mr Eric KWOK expressed his views as follows:

- (a) According to the paper of the Public Works Subcommittee (PWSC) under the Finance Committee of LegCo dated 2 December 2009, there were discussions on seeking opportunities for public-private partnership. To his astonishment, it was now mentioned in the paper of HA that a support centre would be set up instead to provide laundry and patient catering services and a data centre, etc. NLTH was very important to Tung Chung and he hoped HA would respond as to why the paper now made no mention of the public-private hospital and the remaining 170 hospital beds as stated in the paper in 2009.
- (b) He asked about the anticipated completion date of the support centre of Phase II development. If the support centre was not completed in the near future, he asked whether HA could designate part of the site for temporary recreational purpose to meet the demand of Tung Chung residents.
- (c) Members had earlier discussed at the committee meetings the project of provision of cover to the walkway linking the adjoining road section of NLTH to Tung Chung Fire Station. As part of the road section linking Chui Kwan Drive was managed by HA/NLTH, he asked whether it would provide a cover for that section so that the whole project could be taken forward smoothly.

26. Mr Bill TANG expressed his views as follows:

- (a) He said he received the paper from HA just a few days before the meeting and found that it was not detailed enough and the contents were not much related to residents of Lantau or the actual medical

services. Given that support services were required by the medical services of Hong Kong, he raised no objection to the project but hoped that HA would handle the logistics, safety and hygiene matters, etc. properly

- (b) He hoped NLTH would offer more comprehensive medical services and enquired when the pediatrics and gynecological services would be offered and about the consultation quotas provided.
- (c) It was expected the population of Tung Chung would reach almost 200 000 by 2023. By then the artificial islands of Hong Kong Boundary Crossing Facilities (HKBCF) would have operated for several years and the third runway at the airport would be completed. He was concerned that there was no expansion of medical services in Phase II development to meet the future demand of Lantau residents. He hoped HA would expand services and introduce more specialty services with the provision of Hi-Tech equipment to perform urgent surgeries. He pointed out that the seriously injured or patients with acute illness attending NLTH were now transferred to Princess Margaret Hospital for further treatment, which, in his opinion, was not the ideal way for providing medical or emergency care.

27. Mr Donald LI made a consolidated response with respect to the design and planning issues:

- (a) He hoped Members would understand that a series of support was required for medical services, ranging from clothing (patient clothes), food (catering), accommodation (hospital beds) to transport (transportation services). Generally, centralised support services were provided, e.g. Butterfly Beach Laundry in New Territories West, Shum Wan Laundry in Hong Kong West as well as the main kitchen of Castle Peak Hospital. To cope with an ageing population in future, several thousand more hospital beds would be provided in the coming 10 years and enormous support would be required, hence the proposal for construction of a support centre.
- (b) On public-private partnership, the Government put out four private hospital sites in Tung Chung, Tai Po, Tseung Kwan O and Wong Chuk Hang for open tender six to seven years ago for public-public partnership in hospital services and only the Wong Chuk Hang site (i.e. where the present Gleneagles Hong Kong Hospital was situated) was successfully awarded. No tender was received for the other three sites. The sites had been idle all along after the unsuccessful tender. As such, it was proposed that a central support centre be built to provide support (including clothing, food, accommodation and transportation services) with the expansion of medical services in future.

28. Dr David SUN made a consolidated response with respect to medical services as follows:

- (a) NLTH had been mindful of and followed up with community needs. The present paper mainly covered Stage 1 of Phase II development and Members' comments were invited. It did not mean HA only focused on the construction of the support centre in the next ten years at the expense of other healthcare services.
- (b) On expansion of specialty services, an annual plan was submitted to HA each year setting out the proposed services and requirements by the hospital for the following year, including the plan to provide urology and pediatric out-patient services. Gynecological service was also under consideration. Where manpower and resources permitted, NLTH would seek to enhance medical services on all fronts progressively to meet the demand of the residents of North Lantau and Tung Chung. HA would not build the support centre in Stage 1 of Phase II development without having the specialty services extended. Both would be taken forward concurrently.
- (c) Regarding the provision of cover for Chui Kwan Drive, he understood that a cover would be provided for the entire walkway. There was no way that the road section outside hospital was left without cover. HA would co-operate depending on the work schedule and resource allocation.
- (d) On emergency services, HA formulated service plans each year for enhancing the services of the accidental and emergency (A&E) department, including the specialty support service. There had been an increase in manpower in A&E department. There was also more ward staff to treat critical ill patients who were not suitable for transfer immediately to avoid the risks involved in transportation. Although no comprehensive services could be provided in the near future, NLTH would enhance services progressively and continue to follow up on the demand of the community.
- (e) The number of hospital beds in Phase II development would not be reduced after the setting up of the support centre.

29. Mr Donald LI clarified that, as shown in the Annex to the paper, the football pitch had been taken out from the Phase II development site and the land concerned could be used by the District Council for provision of comprehensive recreational facilities temporarily.

30. Mr Holden CHOW expressed his views as follows:

- (a) Mr LI said just now that the Phase II development site did not include the football pitch which he believed was On Tung Street soccer pitch,

not the land referred to by Members. Several organisations had earlier proposed to designate the idle land of Phase II development for temporary recreational purpose. He enquired whether the entire site would be used for Phase II development or if part of it could be designated for temporary recreational purpose.

- (b) He hoped HA would understand that Tung Chung residents were in need of a covered walkway. It would be unsatisfactory if the entire walkway was covered except for the section in the hospital area. Several Members already expressed their views on the provision of cover for the walkway and he hoped HA would respond to the aspirations of the locals and co-operate as best as it could.

31. Mr Eric KWOK expressed his views as follows:

- (a) He and Mr Bill TANG and Mr FAN Chi-ping had met with representatives of the Highways Department (HyD) and Transport Department (TD) to discuss the provision of cover on Chui Kwan Drive. As TD had to prepare the gazette notice and appoint consultants to conduct planning and building studies, it was hoped that HA would provide a concrete reply in writing by early next year. Drawling would only impede the works. He asked Dr SUN to pass his views to HA.
- (b) Tung Chung was one the Government's key development area. Population intake had already begun in Mun Tung Estate and Ying Tung Estate, coupled with the other private developments like the Visionary and the Tung Chung New Extension project, Tung Chung's population was expected to grow to approximately 140 000 in 10 years. He enquired when NLTH could provide comprehensive medical services to cope with the development of Tung Chung and the demand of the increasing population. He was worried that the Phase I could not cope with the large population and commercial activities in Tung Chung and the setting up of a support centre in Phase II development would leave no room for extension of the hospital to meet the demand for medical services in Tung Chung and South Lantau.
- (c) If the Phase II development could not be completed within five to 10 years, HA should take Members' advice to designate the relevant land for temporary recreational purpose.

32. Mr Bill TANG enquired whether HA would have to seek funding support from LegCo for Stage 1 of Phase II development, and if yes, when it would submit the request and what was the amount involved. He also hoped that HA would further brief the meeting of the medical services and extension plan of NLTH for the coming years. He believed that would be conducive to the discussion by the District Council and Members could then explain to the locals. In addition, he asked when Stage 2 of Phase II was expected to commence and whether there would be Phase III development and if On Tung Street soccer pitch would be recovered for other development purposes.

33. Mr Donald LI responded as follows:

- (a) On provision of cover for Chui Kwan Drive, there might be misunderstanding in communication as HA was not aware that TD was waiting for its reply. HA would liaise and follow up with TD in due course.
- (b) Since HA learned that the District Council and the Leisure and Cultural Services Department planned to use the site of On Tung Street soccer pitch as a temporary football pitch, the site was taken out of Phase II for the moment and would be recovered when there was development need in the future.
- (c) Stage 1 of Phase II was expected to commence in two years and HA would have to discuss with the relevant departments (e.g. LandsD) whether part of the site could be designated for other temporary purposes.

34. Mr Holden CHOW expressed his views as follows:

- (a) On the project for provision of cover for the walkways, the Chui Kwan Drive section that Members were referring to was managed by HA. He hoped HA would provide cover for the road section and give a concrete reply in writing by the first quarter of 2018 whether it could do so. He had earlier written to HA on the matter and again wanted to confirm at the meeting that there was no mutual misunderstanding.
- (b) No comprehensive medical services were offered in NLTH, but the total population of Tung Chung would grow to about 250 000 in future, without taking into consideration the population in other areas of Lantau. He hoped the hospital would follow up on the demand for specialty services proactively and upgrade the services to become a comprehensive hospital to meet the medical demand of the growing population.

35. Mr Eric KWOK expressed his views as follows:

- (a) He had doubt about HA's saying that works of Phase II would commence in two years' time. Discussion within the District Council would still be needed about the details of the support centre project and it would also take time to seek funding from LegCo. He hoped HA would be practical and reply definitely whether the works could begin in two years. He also asked whether public consultation would be launched for Phase II development.
- (b) He requested HA again to open the site of Phase II for temporary purposes (family activities and leisure activities such as doing physical exercise and for the elderly taking a stroll without requiring large-scale facilities) to meet the demand of Tung Chung residents.

36. Mr Bill TANG hoped that HA would listen to Members' views. The Annex to the paper showed the area of Phase II site. He asked whether the entire area would be used for providing purpose-built facilities (support centre) for Stage 1 of Phase II development, and if Stage 2 of Phase II would make use of the site of On Tung Street soccer pitch so that additional hospital beds and services could be provided. He enquired about the purpose of the site of On Tung Street soccer pitch if land had been reserved for additional hospital beds in Phase II.

37. Ms Josephine TSANG said that NLTH had been in operation for several years but a shortage of doctors and nurses made it difficult to provide a wide range of specialty services. Many patients had to be referred to Princess Margaret Hospital for treatment. Earlier, Members had proposed that the relevant site be designated for temporary recreation purpose. At that time HA had not mentioned the expansion plan but now the Phase II development project was brought up. She considered that while the service of Phase I was not yet comprehensive, it would be impractical and lead to a waste of resources to take forward the Phase II project.

38. Mr Donald LI made a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) The Phase II works site as shown at the Annex to the paper covered about 8 300 square metres for the Phase II extension project of NLTH, with the remaining area of about 13 000 square metres for provision of a support centre for Stage 1 of Phase II project.
- (b) Under the ten-year hospital development plan, the Government and HA had reserved funding for Phase II development project of NLTH but detailed feasibility studies had to be conducted for confirmation of the required allocation. The project now proceeded according to the development schedule. In view of the keen demand for medical services, the support centre had to be completed within six to seven years to tie in with the development of other medical services, otherwise there would be insufficient clothing supply and catering

service to meet the demand as a result of the opening of new hospitals and additional hospital beds in the future. As such, it was hoped that Members would give support for the smooth implementation of the project.

39. Dr David SUN supplemented as follows:

- (a) The coverage area shown at the Annex to the paper included the sites for Stage 1 and Stage 2 of Phase II project. It was yet to confirm whether the football pitch would be used for Phase III development.
- (b) Regarding medical services, HA understood that with the development of Tung Chung and North Lantau, there would be increasing demand for medical services. In fact, HA had planned to increase the allocation progressively to expand services. The expansion of specialty services of the year however depended on the internal resource allocation by HA and the Government.
- (c) During the years when NLTH was built, it was not anticipated that the population of Tung Chung and North Lantau would grow to more than 200 000. It was now studying whether NLTH should be converted into a specialty hospital. The Kowloon West Cluster would implement the clinical services plan next year and the positioning of hospitals in the cluster (including NLTH) would be under review.
- (d) He hoped Members would see that HA did not respond to demand passively. In view of the resource constraint, it had to implement plans progressively. He was pleased to attend the District Council meeting to meet and exchange views with Members. Members' opinions might be helpful when the hospital sought more resources.
- (e) With reference to the plan of the relevant departments for commencing the works for provision of cover early next year, there might have been some misunderstanding since HA had not yet received any notification. It would co-operate as best as it could after obtaining the details.

40. Mr Eric KWOK expressed his views as follows:

- (a) The PWSC paper in December 2009 estimated that the population of Tung Chung would exceed 220 000 and thus a decision was made to build NLTH.
- (b) If Phase I could not cater for the needs of residents in Tung Chung and South Lantau, it would be like putting the cart before the horse if HA deployed resources to develop Phase II, putting the well-being of Tung Chung and South Lantau residents at risk and ignoring the needs of the whole Lantau. He would not accept the proposal for Phase II project.

- (c) He criticised HA for not yet presenting paper with details of service improvement of Phase I to cope with the increasing population and development needs in Tung Chung and the whole Lantau. Instead, it put forward the project of developing a laundry and catering centre and said that work would commence in two years without consulting the public.

41. Dr David SUN said that the provisions for a support centre and additional hospital beds and specialty services were separate allocations.

42. The Chairman said Members hoped that the hospital would improve the services and asked the representative to relate their views to HA. He said deferring the project would have no advantages, and asked Members whether they supported the project.

43. Mr CHEUNG Fu said HA should develop the support facilities and he supported the project.

44. The Chairman asked Members to vote by a show of hands. The result was 14 for and 3 against and the development plan was supported by IDC.

(During voting, one member left and only 17 voted.)

V. Question on market management of the newly completed public housing development in Tung Chung

(Paper IDC 74/2017)

XVI. Question on provision of a municipal market in Tung Chung

(Papers IDC 97/2017 and IDC 98/2017)

45. The Chairman welcomed Ms SZETO Hau-yan, Esther, Property Service Manager/Service (Hong Kong Island and Islands 3) of Housing Department (HD) and Mr KWAN Yau-kee, District Environmental Hygiene Superintendent (Islands) of FEHD to the meeting to respond to the questions. The Food and Health Bureau (FHB) and FEHD had provided written replies to the questions on papers IDC 97/2017 & IDC 98/2017 for Members' information.

(As Items V and XVI were interrelated, it was agreed that they should be discussed concurrently.)

46. Mr Bill TANG presented the question on Paper IDC 74/2017.

47. Ms Sammi FU presented the question on Paper IDC 97/2017.

48. Mr Eric KWOK presented the question on Paper IDC 98/2017.

Discussion on Paper IDC 74/2017

49. Ms Esther SZETO responded with respect to market management of Mun Tung Estate / Ying Tung Estate as follows:

- (a) Since 1997, the Hong Kong Housing Authority (HKHA) had adopted a single operator letting arrangement for newly completed markets. The purpose of implementing single operator markets (SOMs) was to leverage on expertise and flexible management and operation mode of the private sector to cope with the ever changing business environment. HKHA allowed single operators sufficient flexibility in management of the markets. Single operators could select individual stall operators and negotiate with them the rent and terms of letting on a commercial basis with a view to providing better shopping choices and environment for residents. In negotiating rental with the stall operators, single operators would take into account the demand and supply situation of market stalls to ensure effective operation of the markets.
- (b) HD understood concerns of Members over operation mode of the markets. As such, HKHA, through terms and conditions of tenancy agreements, restricted single operators from charging stall operators other than rent, air-conditioning charges, rates and management fees. Single operators were required to submit a monthly return to HKHA setting out all fees collected from stall operators. HKHA would carry out regular field inspection and assess performance of single operators to ensure compliance with terms and conditions of the tenancy agreements and effective management of the markets.
- (c) The current monitoring measures for SOMs implemented by HKHA enabled an appropriate balance between practical circumstances of commercial operations and shopping needs of residents. The SOM would continue to be adopted in new markets developed by the HKHA, including Ying Tung Estate and Mun Tung Estate.

50. Mr Bill TANG was disappointed with HD's reply and expressed his views as follows:

- (a) Despite continuous discussions by the District Council and LegCo, HKHA turned a blind eye and continued to adopt the SOM. He questioned whether HKHA did not choose other options or make changes because of hefty profits. He cited the cases of Hung Fuk Estate market operator unwilling to take up the tenancy, Shui Tsuen O Estate market asking for high rent but with few customers, and exit of beef stall tenants due to low profit while pork stalls making high profit were being monopolised by single operators. He asked how HD would address the above problems.

- (b) He requested HD to take over market management of Mun Tung Estate or Ying Tung Estate as a trial. If the result was unsatisfactory with few shopping choices, high commodity prices and low rental return, Members would accept the SOM. It would arouse suspicion of allowing single operators to monopolise if HD did not try other options.
- (c) He did not agree with the saying that single operators had more expertise. If the stall tenants of Ying Tung Estate complained that the single operators took up the tenancy of stalls with higher profits, how would HD deal with the situation. He requested HD's representative to relate his views to HD and HKHA.

51. Mr Eric KWOK expressed his views as follows:

- (a) He was concerned that the SOM adopted by HKHA would lead to dominance of markets as The Link did.
- (b) The Government set up the Competition Commission to promote competition. According to the responses made by the representative of HD just now, HKHA simply had no intention to entrust HD with the management of the markets of Ying Tung Estate and Mun Tung Estate to introduce competition among stall tenants for the benefit of Tung Chung residents.
- (c) If HKHA stuck to its guns and adopted the SOM, he enquired when the two markets would come into operation and the mode of operation used, whether extra transport facilities would be provided for people to go to the four markets in Tung Chung, as well as the tendering process, identity of successful operators and so on.

52. Mr FAN Chi-ping remarked that although the representative of HKHA promised at the IDC meeting years ago to take over market management of public estates, SOM was adopted. He hoped HKHA would try managing the markets itself and he believed the commodities sold would then be cheaper.

53. Mr Holden CHOW enquired whether guidelines had been provided for the operators of Ying Tung Estate and Mun Tung Estate markets in respect of the location of market stalls and commodities sold. In addition to the markets of Ying Tung Estate and Mun Tung Estate, he opined that a municipal services building was required in Tung Chung providing, among others, a large-scale municipal market. He had proposed in the IDC meeting a site in Tung Chung Town Centre Area 1 for provision of the market building but the Government replied that a cultural and recreation centre would be built thereon. He opined that a municipal market would best meet the needs and wishes of Tung Chung residents and hoped the Government would consider providing a multi-storey municipal services building (including a large-scale municipal market) in Area 1. He hoped his views would be put on record.

54. Ms Amy YUNG remarked that different Members had pointed out that a lack of competition resulted in fewer consumer choices in the public estate markets. She asked whether the contract operators of HD and stall tenants could have any relationship; and if yes, whether they were required to declare an interest.

55. Ms Esther SZETO made a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) HD noted concerns of Members over the probability of monopoly arising from SOM. It was now stipulated in tenancy agreements that single operators had to ensure that the premises were operated in the manner of a traditional market (i.e. selling various fresh vegetables, fruits, types of meat and groceries in the form of market stalls), and a certain proportion of foodstuff and miscellaneous trades were provided. Regarding the comments of Mr Bill TANG on the operation of beef and pork stalls, HD regulated the sale of meat as a whole rather than by type in the SOM. She would relate Members' views to the Commercial Properties Management Unit to study whether more regulatory measures should be formulated to cater for shopping needs of residents.
- (b) Regarding the scale and completion date of the markets in Ying Tung Estate and Mun Tung Estate, there would be 18 shop premises and a SOM in Ying Tung Estate providing approximately 40 dry and wet goods stalls and the completion date was expected to be by end 2017. Mun Tung Estate would have 13 shop premises and a SOM with approximately 40 dry and wet goods stalls and the completion date was expected to be in mid-2018. On transport facilities, similar to other housing estates, HD would not make special traffic arrangement for customers, however, HD would liaise with TD during intake stage to ensure that appropriate transportation would be available to meet demand of residents.
- (c) Regarding the promise as mentioned by Mr FAN Chi-ping, in general, Development and Construction Division of HD would consult District Councils on building design and overall ancillary facilities of public housing development projects during planning stage, but management mode of markets should be rarely touched on.
- (d) On promotion of competition among stall tenants, HD allowed single operators to operate the stalls directly provided that the scale of operation did not exceed that specified in the tenancy agreement. At present, single operators and their stall tenants were not required to declare interest.

56. Mr Bill TANG supplemented that the example of beef and pork stalls was cited to illustrate that given the cost and benefits involved, the single operators would tend to operate the pork stalls themselves. As a result, there would be fewer choices

and relatively less price competition which would affect people's livelihood. He asked whether HD would seek the Competition Commission's advice to prevent the above situation.

57. Mr KWONG Koon-wan was worried about the occurrence of monopoly similar to that of The Link, making it difficult for people at grass-roots level to buy foodstuffs. Even though the tenancy agreement specified the types of commodities to be sold, it would be difficult for HD to monitor the quantities bought by the single operators or stall tenants for resale. He suggested HKHA specify the rent level that the operators could charge the stall tenants to introduce competition so that the markets could continue to serve the residents. If HKHA could not manage the markets, it could consider entrusting FEHD with the management.

58. The Chairman requested the representative of HD to relate Members' views to the department for follow-up.

#### Discussion on Papers IDC 97/2017 and IDC 98/2017

59. Mr KWAN Yau-kee said that a written reply had been provided by FHB and FEHD and he had nothing to add.

60. Mr Eric KWOK enquired whether FHB/FEHD would conduct public consultation on the market sites and hoped that a construction schedule would be provided.

61. Mr Bill TANG was concerned about the location of the markets. As Yat Tung Estate and the new public housing in Tung Chung West were home to many people at grass-roots level and in the sandwich class, he suggested that the market be built in Tung Chung West or, as proposed by Mr Holden CHOW, Area 1 instead of waiting until the completion of reclamation in Tung Chung East.

62. Mr KWAN Yau-kee said that as the project was at the initial preparatory stage, no details of public consultation or construction schedule were available at the moment. A report would be made to the District Council when further information was available. On the location of the market, as the written reply stated, the site preliminarily identified would be close to the public transport system which was believed to be able to cater for the needs of the whole Tung Chung and those living in the nearby areas.

63. Mr Holden CHOW said that Area 1 was already ready, and it would be too late if a market was built after the completion of reclamation in 2023. Building the market in Area 1 could also serve the residents in the reclamation area in the future. As such, he proposed that a market be built in Area 1.

64. The Chairman requested the representative of FEHD to relate Members' views to the bureau.

(Post-meeting note: The proposal of Mr Holden CHOW had been related to FHB and

the FEHD headquarters by the Islands District Environmental Hygiene Office on 5 September.)

(Mr Ken WONG left the meeting at about 4:30 p.m.)

- VI. Question on the readiness of Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge for commissioning  
(Paper IDC 85/2017)
- VII. Question on increasing the number of parking spaces at the Hong Kong Boundary Crossing Facilities of Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge  
(Paper IDC 93/2017)

65. The Chairman said Items VI and VII were interrelated and suggested that they be discussed concurrently. For Item VI, he welcomed Mr PANG Chi-chiu and Mr CHEUNG Pok, Senior Engineers/HZMB of HyD, as well as Mr HO Kwok-fai, Godfrey, Senior Engineer (Islands Division) of CEDD to the meeting to respond to the question. The written replies of HyD, TD and CEDD had been distributed to Members for perusal before the meeting. The Transport and Housing Bureau (THB) said the representative of HyD would attend the meeting to respond to Members' question. For Item VII, the written reply of TD had been distributed to Members for perusal before the meeting.

66. Mr Bill TANG presented the question on Paper IDC 85/2017.

67. Mr Holden CHOW presented the question on Paper IDC 93/2017.

68. Mr PANG Chi-chiu presented the written reply of HyD to the question on Paper IDC 85/2017.

69. Mr Godfrey HO briefly introduced the written reply of CEDD to the question on Paper IDC 85/2017.

70. Mr Bill TANG expressed his views as follows:

- (a) He suggested that the transport arrangements and traffic assessments upon the commissioning of Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge (HZMB) be discussed at the meeting of Traffic and Transport Committee in detail.
- (b) According to the reply of HyD, the major works of HZMB Hong Kong section would be completed to be ready for commissioning by the end of 2017. For the entire HZMB project, Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao strived for its completion by end 2017. This showed that the work of Hong Kong section did not proceed slowly and hinder the works progress of the entire project as the media reported. He asked when HZMB was expected to be open.

- (c) Regarding the works progress of the northern connection of Tuen Mun-Chek Lap Kok Link (TM-CLKL), he asked although the contractor was unco-operative, whether the delay was caused by technical problems and thus it would not be held responsible. He also enquired whether the change of the contractor's attitude from unco-operative to co-operative was because monetary compensation was offered.
- (d) CEDD was now conducting technical assessment for topside development of HZMB HKBCF. He asked whether the findings of the preliminary assessment revealed any changes in the basic data relating to the usable land area for topside development.

71. Mr Holden CHOW expressed his views as follows:

- (a) He was disappointed with the written reply of TD in respect of increasing parking spaces at HKBCF. As he stated at the meeting earlier, if there were not sufficient parking spaces at HKBCF, people would park their vehicles at Tung Chung town centre, aggravating traffic chaos and congestion therein. He hoped TD would follow up on the matter.
- (b) He disagreed with the written reply which stated that the roads concerned would have adequate capacity to cope with the vehicular traffic after the opening of HZMB. He was afraid the existing roads (especially the North Lantau Highway) would be unable to handle the increasing traffic volume, hence repeating the experience at Tsing Ma Bridge where traffic came to a standstill during the first day of implementation of the two-way toll collection arrangement. He urged TD to provide information justifying its claim that the existing roads had adequate capacity to handle the increasing traffic volume with the relevant assessment reports for Members' reference.

72. Mr Eric KWOK expressed his views as follows:

- (a) He had time and again indicated at the meeting that the left- and right-hand driving habit might lead to more accidents with the increasing cross-border vehicles after the commissioning of HZMB. He quoted a report of the Association of British Insurers published in 2007 that between 2001 and 2004, the number of accidents involving cross-border vehicles increased by 28% as a result of a rising level of cross-border driving in the UK. The main cause of accidents was due to the left- and right-hand driving habit. He urged the Government to address the problem.
- (b) The air pollution problem was extremely serious in Tung Chung. He was concerned that air pollution would worsen with the emissions from cross-border vehicles after the commissioning of HZMB. He

enquired whether any mechanism was in place for monitoring the diesel used by cross-border vehicles and their emissions.

- (c) According to the newspaper reports, the Guangdong authorities had started accepting applications for cross-border licence since 1 September of this year with a quota of 300 for Mainland vehicles travelling to Hong Kong and 3 000 for Hong Kong vehicles to the Mainland. It was reported that the market prices of licences for Mainland vehicles travelling to Hong Kong were in the region of \$500,000 to \$1,000,000 and for Hong Kong vehicles were at least around \$1,000,000. He was concerned over illegal speculative activities.

73. Mr PANG Chi-chiu briefly introduced the written reply of HyD with the main points as follows:

- (a) As stated in the written reply, the major works of HZMB Hong Kong section would generally be completed to be ready for commissioning by the end of 2017. The three sides strived to complete the entire HZMB project by end 2017 for early simultaneous commissioning subject to factors such as the implementation of cross-boundary transport arrangements.
- (b) In a press release in mid-March of this year, HyD indicated that the contractor of the subsea tunnel work of TM-CLKL was not fully co-operative. As the supervisory department, it had been discussing with the contractor over the past months and improvement was made with the contractor adopting a more co-operative attitude. HyD and the engineering consultants were now working actively with the contractor on the amendment to the design in the hope of finalising the design in a timely manner and catching up with the progress. Based on the current situation, it was anticipated that the Northern Connection could be completed in 2020 at the earliest. Regarding the reason for the contractor's not fully cooperative attitude earlier on, HyD would not speculate.

74. Mr Kenneth MOK said that TD had provided a written reply and he would convey Members' concerns to the relevant colleagues, including insufficient parking spaces at HKBCF and the left- and right-hand driving issues. Matters concerning air pollution fell into the ambit of the Environmental Protection Department (EPD).

75. Mr Eric KWOK queried whether the relevant departments were aware that the left- and right-hand driving would contribute to more traffic accidents and emissions from Mainland vehicles would give rise to air pollution. He urged the departments to pay attention to the prices of cross-border vehicle licences.

76. Mr Kenneth MOK said he would convey to the relevant colleagues Members' concerns over the left- and right-hand driving and suspected speculative activities involving cross-border vehicle licences.

77. Mr CHEUNG Pok said that to his knowledge, Hong Kong and Guangdong authorities were now discussing issues concerning the emissions of cross-border vehicles.

78. Mr Godfrey HO said that during the period from May to September 2015, CEDD and PlanD conducted community engagement for topside development at HKBCF to gauge the public's views on the concept in respect of development scale and provision of facilities, etc. The draft recommended Outline Development Plan for topside development at HKBCF was now being prepared with land uses including retail, catering, entertainment and commercial uses such as offices, hotels and logistics. Technical assessments including environmental and traffic impact assessments were carried out for the development proposals. Upon completion of the assessments, CEDD would launch Stage 2 community engagement to seek public views on the draft recommended Outline Development Plan.

79. Ms Amy YUNG was dissatisfied with the reply of TD. The left- and right-hand driving had been discussed by Members at last year's meeting but the department had made no response to date.

80. Mr Holden CHOW urged TD to follow up on the shortage of parking spaces at HKBCF, and provide details of the traffic impact assessment made upon the commissioning of HZMB with relevant reports for Members' perusal. He was concerned that the existing roads could not handle the increasing traffic, forcing the traffic to a standstill as the case of Tsing Ma Bridge on the first day of the implementation of the two-way toll collection arrangement.

81. Mr Bill TANG enquired whether the change of the tunnel contractor's attitude from not fully co-operative to more co-operative was because of large sums paid for construction. He also asked whether the cross-boundary transport arrangements for simultaneous commissioning in three places required the submission of a proposal to LegCo.

82. Mr PANG Chi-chiu said, as HyD had indicated in its press release in mid-March of this year, the tunnel contractor was not fully co-operative and only after repeated urging submitted a crude amendment scheme with unreasonably high construction costs. As the supervisory department, HyD had been discussing with the tunnel contractor over the past months, and the latter's attitude had now improved. HyD considered not appropriate to disclose any change in the construction costs.

83. Mr CHEUNG Pok supplemented that emissions of Mainland vehicles, amongst others, had to be discussed between the respective authorities of Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao as part of the cross-boundary transport arrangements. Regarding whether or not the submission of a proposal to LegCo was required for

simultaneous commissioning by the three sides, THB had presented the papers on relevant issues (including left- and right-hand driving) to LegCo for discussion.

84. The Chairman requested the relevant departments to take note of Members' views and concerns.

(Mr LOU Cheuk-wing and Mr FAN Chi-ping left the meeting at about 4:50 p.m. and 5 p.m. respectively.)

VIII. Question on Building Maintenance Grant Scheme for Elderly Owners  
(Paper IDC 87/2017)

85. The Chairman said that the written replies of the Hong Kong Housing Society and the Urban Renewal Authority (URA) had been distributed to Members for perusal prior to the meeting.

86. Ms Amy YUNG presented the paper. She said that according to the written reply of URA, the average annual rateable values of private residential or composite (commercial and residential) buildings had been raised under the Integrated Building Maintenance Assistance Scheme and the Mandatory Building Inspection Subsidy Scheme although the ceiling was different for properties in the urban areas and the New Territories. She opined that the difference between urban and New Territories properties was no longer clear. Many large housing courts had been completed in the New Territories for the last 10 years and many residents were elderly people. To her knowledge, the maintenance of small units could easily cost hundred thousand to several hundred thousand dollars. She welcomed the launching of the Smart Tender Building Rehabilitation Facilitation Services Scheme by URA, but she would take a wait-and-see attitude towards its effectiveness. URA had not arranged representatives to attend the meeting to explain the reason for the difference between the rateable values of properties in the urban areas and the New Territories. The elderly residents in the New Territories (including Islands District) did not have much income and just lived on a pension. They had to spend an enormous amount of money on maintenance as a result of the Mandatory Building Inspection Scheme but no subsidy was given. She found that disappointing. Since no representative of URA was present at the meeting, she hoped the Secretariat would, after the meeting, request URA to provide a written reply.

IX. Question on oil spill in the waters off Tung Chung  
(Paper IDC 88/2017)

87. The Chairman welcomed Mr MAK Shui-wing, Marine Manager/Licencing & Port Formalities (2) and Mr LEE Tin-shing, Senior Assistant Shipping Master/Pollution Control Unit of Marine Department (MD); Mr YEUNG Wai-tak, Victor, Senior Environmental Protection Officer (Mega Project) of EPD; and Mr PANG Chi-chiu and Mr CHEUNG Pok, Senior Engineer/HZMB of HyD to the meeting to respond to the question. AFCD was unable to arrange representatives to

attend the meeting but had provided a written reply for Members' perusal. The written reply of HyD had also been distributed to Members for perusal prior to the meeting.

88. Ms Amy YUNG presented the question.

89. Mr LEE Tin-shing responded as follows:

- (a) According to records, from January 2012 to July 2017, MD received a total of 11 reports concerning oil spills in Tung Chung and the nearby waters. Oil spills at sea were confirmed in three of the cases after investigation. Upon receipt of cases of oil spill at sea, the Department would immediately deploy staff to the scene for investigation, and if oil spills were found, vessels would be immediately deployed for clearance. Investigating officers would also try to identify the source of oil spill and if necessary, liaise with other relevant departments to gather information from various channels in order to find out the source and follow up.
- (b) In addition to performing routine patrols at Tung Chung waters and nearby marine works sites, the Department also frequently arranged staff to conduct publicity and educational activities for the vessels in the district, reminding them of the need to take appropriate measures to prevent oil from being discharged into the sea accidentally. If oil spills at sea were found, members of the public might dial the government hotline 1823 or inform MD direct so that the Department could arrange staff to attend the scene soonest for handling and follow-up.

90. Mr Victor YEUNG said that MD was responsible for management of and follow up on oil spills at sea. Upon receipt of referral cases from MD of pollution of suspected land-based sources, EPD would immediately arrange staff to identify possible sources of oil spill on land. The Department had not found any source of oil spill near Tung Chung in the past.

91. Mr CHEUNG Pok said that over the past five year, HyD received a total of four complaints concerning oil spill near Tung Chung waters. After thorough investigation, it was confirmed that the cases were not caused by HZMB Hong Kong Section works. The Department received media enquiries on 8 and 31 July this year about oil spill in the waters off Tung Chung. The Department subsequently arranged staff to perform site inspection and found no oil spill in the surrounding waters and that the scene (i.e. the waters off The Visionary, Tung Chung) was not within the works area of HZMB Hong Kong Section. The Department had all along strictly complied with the requirements of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Report and Environmental Permit to adopt a range of environmental protection measures and formulated contingency plan for oil spillage prior to commencement of works. The Department also from time to time reviewed the contingency plan and

conducted training as appropriate to ensure that the contractors strictly complied with the relevant requirements.

92. Ms Amy YUNG thanked the Department for providing the results of investigation and relevant information. Regarding the reporting of oil spills, she indicated that when Hong Kong was hit by Typhoon Hato, a vessel stranded off Discovery Bay Marine Club and started leaking oil yesterday, polluting such areas as Nim Shue Wan and the Seminary. She could provide photos after the meeting if necessary. As there was already newspaper coverage of the stranding of the vessel, she hoped MD could remain vigilant and perform site inspection soonest to confirm if there was oil spill. She was dissatisfied with AFCD for only providing a written reply without arranging representatives to attend the meeting and reply whether marine ecology would be affected if the spilled oil was absorbed by marine lives such as fishes and clams, and whether consumption of such seafood would impact human health.

93. Mr Bill TANG said that the waters off Tung Chung were not too wide and queried why the source of oil spill could not be identified. He believed that the oil spill probably came from the works and enquired whether MD would implement a thorough investigation, such as closely monitoring the vessels in the waters concerned. As the development of Tung Chung and North Lantau involved reclamation, it would be quite worrying if the source of oil spill could not be identified.

94. Ms Amy YUNG supplemented that during the construction of the Hong Kong Disneyland, oil spillage occurred at the private shipyard nearby. The oil spill covered a large area but government officers were not allowed to enter the shipyard for examination. The Government eventually spent hundreds of millions of dollars to clean up the land which was polluted by dioxins. She hoped various departments would stay alert and proactively identify the sources of oil spill and impose penalties, or else large sums of public money would have to be spent for clean-up if the oil spills spread out.

(Since the guests for agenda items XII and XIII had other commitments, it was agreed that these two items to be discussed first following agenda item IX.)

### XIII. Question on illegal parking of Gobee.bike bicycles (Papers IDC 92/2017 and IDC 96/2017)

95. The Chairman welcomed the two representatives of Gobee.bike, Mr Brian CHOI and Mr Matthew NG to the meeting to respond to the question. The written reply of TD had been distributed to Members for perusal prior to the meeting.

96. Mr Holden CHOW presented the question on Paper IDC 92/2017.

97. Ms Sammi FU presented the question on Paper IDC 96/2017.

98. Mr Brian Choi said that regarding illegal parking of shared bicycles, the company had taken measures to encourage users to park the bicycles at appropriate locations, for example, reminding users to park at public bicycle parking spaces via mobile application. If it was informed by government departments, members of the public or users of cases of illegal bicycle parking or damaged bicycle requiring repair, designated staff would be deployed to follow up. The company had all along maintained communication with TD in handling illegal bicycle parking, but it took time to handle the cases as the bicycles were parked in scattered locations. Regarding the parking locations, the company would be glad to discuss with relevant government departments, local communities, housing estates and stakeholders to identify suitable locations.

99. Mr Holden CHOW said that self-help bicycle rental service was a new mode of business. He gave support as long as it could bring convenience to members of the public. However, he was concerned about the haphazard parking of shared bicycles in Tung Chung since the bicycle-sharing service became available in the district. He noted the written reply of TD and enquired how the Department communicated with the company on illegal bicycle parking and bicycle recovery, such as informing the company to accelerate the recovery of bicycles.

100. Ms Sammi FU supported the idea of shared bicycles to encourage members of the public to travel by bicycles but reckoned that there was insufficient bicycle parking space and cycling track in Hong Kong. If the company increased the number of bicycles for rent at the end of this year, she worried that the problem of illegal bicycle parking would be even more serious.

101. Mr Bill TANG opined that as Gobee.bike was a private company, the government departments should not excessively co-operate with the company lest it would arouse the suspicion of unfairness. Moreover, he noticed that many public bicycle parking spaces in Tseung Kwan O were occupied by shared bicycles for a prolonged period. He opined that the company had the responsibility to handle illegal parking of bicycles and suggested it track the bicycles by GPS, take the initiative to recover them instead of dealing with the problem only when complaints were received, and punish non-compliant users. On the other hand, the relevant departments should properly regulate bicycle rental service and take enforcement action against illegal parking of bicycles. Since the introduction of shared bicycle service, members of the public had reflected to him that shared bicycles caused chaos as well as the concerns of unfairness to other bicycle service operators. He stressed that unless after public consultation and endorsed by LegCo, it was inappropriate for the government departments to excessively co-operate with the company.

102. Mr Eric KWOK said that this matter reflected the flaw in the city design. In planning to develop Tung Chung into a smart low-carbon city, the Government focused only on city development but overlooked the design for cycling and pedestrian environment. He hoped remedial measures would be taken in the future planning and development of Tung Chung.

103. Mr Matthew NG said that since no suitable location was found earlier, bicycles were temporarily parked at Ma On Shan and Tseung Kwan O. After discussing with TD, the company had identified a private land for parking new bicycles.

104. The Chairman asked the company to consider and follow up on Members' concerns and opinions, and address the problem of illegal bicycle parking promptly to avoid causing nuisance to members of the public and the traffic.

105. Mr Holden CHOW enquired about TD's communication with the company on illegal bicycle parking and enforcement matters.

106. Mr Kenneth MOK said that on enforcement, as stated in the Department's written reply, government departments would take enforcement action and handle illegal bicycle parking according to established procedures. The District Offices concerned would co-ordinate inter-departmental joint operations where necessary to clear illegally-parked bicycles. On communication, prior to the launch of self-help bicycle rental service, various government departments including TD and LandsD had conducted several meetings with representatives of the operator and reiterated that the operation of bicycle rental service had to be complied with the law and the requirements concerning the parking or storage of bicycles. The government departments would closely monitor the impact of rental bicycles on the community and take enforcement action when necessary.

107. Mr Bill TANG reckoned that unlike ordinary bicycles, the ownership of shared bicycles was clear. Where illegally- or haphazardly-parked bicycles were found, District Offices needed not co-ordinate inter-departmental joint operations to clear them. The company should take the responsibility to handle them on its own otherwise the relevant departments should take enforcement action.

## XII. Question on illegal trawling in Hong Kong waters (Paper IDC 91/2017)

108. The Chairman welcomed Mr WONG Cheuk-kee, Edward, Senior Fisheries Officer (Enforcement) of AFCD to the meeting to respond to the question.

109. Mr KWONG Koon-wan presented the question.

110. Mr Edward WONG responded as follows:

- (a) After the fishing moratorium ends, AFCD deployed additional manpower through internal resource allocation to step up patrol at different parts of Hong Kong waters from 16 August to 3 September this year. During the period, 53 patrols were performed and 37 of which were conducted at night time. Based on the situations of the past few years, illegal trawling activities significantly increased in approximately the first two to three months after the fishing

moratorium. In view of this, AFCD stepped up night-time patrols and at the same time continued to take joint operations with various Divisions of Hong Kong Marine Police (Marine Police), including three special joint operations with Marine South Division and one with Marine East Division, to combat illegal trawling.

- (b) During the patrols, AFCD enforcement staff discovered illegal trawlers fishing at the waters near the boundary of Hong Kong, but they quickly returned to Mainland waters when being chased by enforcement staff of the Department. As cross-border chasing was not allowed, the Department faced certain difficulties in enforcement. In addition to a breach of the Fisheries Protection Ordinance, the said trawlers also violated the relevant Shipping Ordinance by covering the vessel licence number. The Department would continue to collaborate with Marine Police on combatting illegal fishing. The matter of vessels covering the licence number had been referred to MD for follow-up.

111. Mr KWONG Koon-wan enquired about the numbers of staff and vessels deployed in each of the 37 night-time patrols and the equipment used to intercept the fishing vessels; among the 57 patrols, how many were performed jointly with Zhuhai Fisheries Authority; and in the joint operations with Marine South Division, what equipment were used by Marine Police to intercept and chase the fishing vessels as well as the pursuit locations.

112. Mr Edward WONG gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) AFCD and Marine South Division performed joint enforcement operations at specified dates and times each month. Should AFCD need assistance during the operations, Marine Police would arrive at the scene promptly to provide support. Moreover, in special joint operations, AFCD and Marine Police brought along vessel arrest system to intercept operating trawlers. The use of vessel arrest system was subject to various considerations, including the distance of the location where violation was found from the boundary; the impact of the use of vessel arrest system as it would cause the trawler to instantly lose power and thus pose a certain degree of danger; and the suitability of handling follow-up issues under the prevailing circumstances.
- (b) Normally, AFCD would block the routes of illegal trawlers by vessel and issue the international signal to stop them. The same approach was also adopted by Marine Police when they arrived at the scene for reinforcement. The Department had explored with Marine Police other ways to force illegal trawlers to stop, but there was no alternative ways to forcibly stop fishing vessels in motion at the moment.
- (c) In the 37 night-time inspections, the Department deployed one to two departmental vessels each time with at least three AFCD staff onboard. Marine Police used ordinary launches during the operations and was

generally not assisted with special apparatus apart from the vessel arrest system used in certain operations.

- (d) On communicating with Mainland authorities, the Department reached consensus with Guangdong Provincial Marine and Fisheries Inspection Bureau after communication in March that the Department needed not inform Zhuhai Fisheries Authority each time an operation was mounted. Only when the Department chased vessels which returned swiftly to Mainland waters after fishing in waters near Hong Kong boundary would the relevant Zhuhai authority be informed to stop fishing vessels from returning to Mainland waters, so as to facilitate enforcement in Hong Kong waters by Hong Kong enforcement departments. The effectiveness of the above arrangement was yet to be tested. The Department would continue to communicate with relevant Mainland authorities to enhance the routine collaboration mechanism.

113. Mr KWONG Koon-wan indicated that despite the enforcement of relevant regulation for almost five years, illegal trawling persisted. He was discontented that the two sides had yet to come up with a robust enforcement mechanism. He hoped enforcement departments would use vessel arrest systems that could achieve effective result. In case the vessel licence number was masked, enforcement departments might record the vessel colour or put a laser mark on the vessel for easy identification of fishing vessels that had been chased. He urged the relevant departments to arrest illegal trawler fishermen and confiscate the vessels so as to effectively protect the coastal conservation areas.

114. Ms LEE Kwai-chun enquired whether the illegal trawlers were registered in Guangdong Province and whether a robust communication mechanism between AFCD and Mainland authorities in respect of the overall fishermen policy was in place.

115. Mr Edward WONG gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) AFCD staff had strived to take enforcement action. The Department would conduct investigation and take enforcement action through various means. Since each fishing vessel had its own features, such as colour or devices, a possible approach to investigation was to check out these features. Where fishing vessel could not be stopped instantly, enforcement staff would take photos and videos and record the vessel features, which would then be matched with the information in the Department's database to identify the fishing vessel involved in the case. Illegal trawling activities were mainly performed at night where collection of evidence was not easy, but the Department would not give up. Since arrest on the spot could achieve the greatest deterrent effect, the Department would continue to strengthen collaboration with Marine Police and use vessel arrest system as appropriate in chasing the vessels.

- (b) On communication with relevant Mainland authorities, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between AFCD and Mainland Fisheries Authority in June this year to strengthen communication on mobile fishing vessels management and fishermen matters in two places. According to information, fishing vessels involved in illegal trawling activities previously were mainly Hong Kong and Macao mobile fishing vessels which registered both in Hong Kong and the Mainland. It was hard for the Department to ask the Mainland to arrest and prosecute those fishing vessels which fished illegally in Hong Kong. The Department was studying with relevant Mainland authorities to step up regulation on registration of mobile fishermen of Hong Kong and Macao in the hope of deterring Hong Kong mobile fishermen from repeated violation.
- (c) A communication and collaboration mechanism between AFCD and Guangdong Provincial Marine and Fisheries Inspection Bureau and its sub-office at city level was put in place. The Department would explore ways to strengthen and make use of the existing communication mechanism with Mainland to combat illegal trawling activities.

116. Mr LEUNG Chung-ting supplemented as follows:

- (a) During large-scale joint operations with AFCD, Marine Police would deploy one divisional patrol vessel, one medium patrol vessel and two small crafts. If fishing rods were not found on the vessel being chased, the divisional patrol vessel would intercept it for questioning. If the vessel did not co-operate and stop, Marine Police would consider using vessel arrest system for interception and boarding the vessel from small crafts.
- (b) During the moratorium, Marine Region conducted a total of 259 anti-illegal fishing operations including 28 joint operations with AFCD. Among which, 83 operations were carried out in waters off the Islands District to the south and west of Hong Kong, and 16 of which were joint operations with AFCD. No one had been arrested or prosecuted in the operations.
- (c) He called upon the fishermen and district councillors to inform Marine South and West Divisions or AFCD by phone if illegal fishing activities were spotted so that enforcement action could be taken.
- (d) In addition to joint operations with enforcement departments in Hong Kong, Marine Region also participated in the joint operations of AFCD and Mainland Fisheries Authority which conducted once to twice each year.

117. Mr KWONG Koon-wan said that vessel arrest system could effectively intercept vessels. It had also led to successful prosecutions about two or three years ago. He suggested Marine Police devote additional resources to acquire vessel arrest systems. When illegal fishing activities were reported by fishermen in the past, frontline enforcement staff of Marine Police first intercepted the informants for registration of particulars before chasing the vessels suspected of illegal fishing, thus bringing down the success rate of chasing. He hoped the relevant department would chase vessels suspected of illegal trawling first, and register the information of informants thereafter.

118. Mr Edward WONG said that AFCD had acquired additional vessel arrest systems for use with Marine Police.

119. Mr LEUNG Chung-ting indicated that Marine Police would allocate resource according to the circumstances to avoid affecting other operations. He would relate the views of Mr KWONG to his colleagues.)

(Mr CHEUNG Fu left the meeting at about 5:40 p.m.)

X. Question on air pollution in Tung Chung  
(Paper IDC 89/2017)

120. The Chairman welcomed Dr LEUNG Kai-ming, Kenneth, Senior Environmental Protection Officer (Air Science) of EPD to the meeting to respond to the question.

121. Ms Amy YUNG presented the question.

122. Dr Kenneth LEUNG provided relevant information and gave response with the aid of PowerPoint Presentation. The main points were as follows:

Air quality in Tung Chung

- (a) The overall air quality in Tung Chung had improved in recent years. From 2012 to 2016, the annual average concentration of respirable suspended particulates (PM<sub>10</sub>), fine suspended particulates (PM<sub>2.5</sub>), sulphur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>), nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) and ozone (O<sub>3</sub>) reduced by 15% to 27%. While the annual average concentration of carbon monoxide (CO) increased by 9% during the same period, its concentration level was still much lower than the respective air quality objective (AQO).
- (b) In 2016, in terms of meeting the AQOs, Tung Chung was one of the three districts that achieved the best performance across the territory. The key air pollutants recorded at Tung Chung monitoring station including PM<sub>10</sub>, PM<sub>2.5</sub>, SO<sub>2</sub>, NO<sub>2</sub> and O<sub>3</sub> all met the respective AQOs.

- (c) Unfavourable meteorological factors for dispersion of pollutants and regional pollution were the reasons for the intermittently high levels of pollution in Hong Kong. On 29 and 30 July this year for instance, due to the stable weather in Hong Kong under the influence of Typhoon Nesat, the weather in the Pearl River Delta (PRD) region was generally fine with light winds, which hindered the dispersion of air pollutants, leading to accumulation of pollutants (mainly O<sub>3</sub>, PM<sub>10</sub> and PM<sub>2.5</sub>) in the PRD region and Pearl River Estuary. Winds in west of Hong Kong (including Tung Chung) was light northwesterlies, bringing pollutants from Pearl River Estuary to the western part of Hong Kong and causing serious air pollution. Soon after, as winds in Hong Kong turned southwesterlies which facilitated dispersion of pollutants, the pollution level in Tung Chung and other districts lowered accordingly.

#### Air pollution management strategies

- (d) O<sub>3</sub> and NO<sub>2</sub> were the major air pollution problems in Hong Kong. O<sub>3</sub> was a regional secondary pollution and not directly emitted from pollution sources.
- (e) In order to improve regional air quality, the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government had been closely working with Guangdong Provincial Government on reducing air pollutant emission in Hong Kong and PRD region. The two Governments set the 2015 emission reduction targets and 2020 emission reduction ranges for four major pollutants including SO<sub>2</sub>, nitrogen oxides, PM<sub>10</sub> and volatile organic compounds. To this end, both sides were now conducting a mid-term review study to conclude the results of attainment of air pollutant emission reduction targets for 2015 and endorse the emission reduction targets for 2020. The review was expected to be completed within 2017, and by then, the air pollutant emission estimates of the PRD economic zone in 2015 would be published.

#### Emission reduction measures of Hong Kong and Guangdong Province

- (f) The Hong Kong Government took various measures of emission reduction at source covering four major pollution sources, namely vehicles, vessels, power plants and non-road mobile machineries; whereas the Guangdong Provincial Government also introduced a range of emission reduction measures in recent years.

123. Ms Amy YUNG expressed her views as follows:

- (a) This was one of the subjects which Members were most concerned about over the years, and was also the issue that the government departments endeavoured to work on. She thanked Dr LEUNG for explaining in detail and providing information to enable Members to

understand the situation and allay the concerns of Tung Chung residents.

- (b) She appreciated that Dr LEUNG explained clearly the influence of typhoons and winds on such pollutants as O<sub>3</sub> and suspended particulates with the aid of PowerPoint Presentation. She enquired whether the PowerPoint Presentation could be provided to facilitate the residents' understanding of the situation.

124. Dr Kenneth LEUNG said that subject to the consent of the Department, he would provide the PowerPoint information to Members after the meeting.

(Post-meeting note: EPD agreed after the meeting that the PowerPoint information be provided to Members.)

125. Mr Eric KWOK expressed his views as follows:

- (a) Dr LEUNG mentioned just now that the air quality in Tung Chung met the respective AQOs and the European Union (EU) standards. He enquired whether the figures concerned included the impact of local emissions such as emissions from roadside vehicles.
- (b) Given that Euro VI vehicles were not yet available in Hong Kong and various major infrastructure projects were underway in Tung Chung besides the aircraft movements, he queried whether air quality of Tung Chung would be affected.
- (c) According to information from the Hong Kong Observatory (HKO), the number of hours of reduced visibility in Hong Kong was 600 hours per year at present, a two or threefold increase from 1990, reflecting that the number of suspended particulates in Hong Kong was on an increasing trend. The AQOs currently adopted in Hong Kong were too lax and far behind the EU standards. The AQOs published by EPD were always three to five times higher than EU standards. He queried whether EPD's air quality assessment reflected the cumulative effect brought about by various major infrastructural and economic activities.
- (d) He reckoned that HKO's figures on reduced visibility reflected the accumulation of pollutants in the atmosphere, and the pollutants created by economic activities had never disappeared. Moreover, the occurrence of temperature inversions would further aggravate the already very serious air pollution problem in the city. He hoped the department could explain the relevant figures.
- (e) The number of death due to air pollution in Hong Kong last year reached 2 196 with economic loss of over \$27.4 billion.

126. Dr Kenneth LEUNG gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) There was only one general monitoring station in Tung Chung which situated at the top of a shopping centre, facing the Lantau Link. Basically, air quality including vehicle emission experienced by residents in Tung Chung district was under monitoring. As all of the pollutants were mixed together, their sources could not be identified.
- (b) Regarding visibility, he had explained earlier that since PM<sub>2.5</sub> would remain at a high level in winter, the visibility would be reduced due to the influence of surrounding environment. Taking the 2016 figures as an example, even in the desolate area of Tap Mun, an annual average PM<sub>2.5</sub> concentration of 19 micrograms per cubic metre (µg/m<sup>3</sup>) was recorded, which represented the concentration of background pollutant; whereas in Tung Chung only 21 µg/m<sup>3</sup> was recorded. As such, it was very difficult for the whole South China region to meet the WHO standard (10 µg/m<sup>3</sup>).
- (c) The Environment Bureau and EPD were conducting a review on the air quality objectives to look into the room for tightening various objectives. The Bureau would put forward proposals subject to the findings.
- (d) On air quality assessment, the department required project proponent to conduct EIA on aggregate impacts of all pollution sources, and each EIA report covered all relevant emission sources within the concerned district. Taking the Tung Chung district as an example, when conducting EIA for Tung Chung New Town Extension, the impacts of vehicles, aircrafts, vessels as well as background pollution sources of PRD region were incorporated for the final stage of review.

(Mr YUNG Chi-ming and Ms Sammi FU left the meeting at about 6:00 p.m. and 6:10 p.m. respectively.)

XI. Question on law and order in Cheung Chau  
(Paper IDC 90/2017)

127. The Chairman welcomed Ms TSANG Kit-ying, Divisional Commander (Cheung Chau) of Hong Kong Police Force (HKPF) to the meeting to respond to the question.

128. Mr KWONG Koon-wan presented the question.

129. Ms TSANG Kit-ying responded as follows:

- (a) A report of suspected discharge of firecrackers was received in July this year without personal injuries or property damage. Cheung Chau

had four cases of criminal damage between June and August this year and investigation was being conducted by the Marine Regional Headquarters. Of the four criminal damage cases, one was in the form of graffiti and an expatriate was arrested and bound over. The other three cases involved the splashing of paint and two persons were arrested in connection of one case and another case was under investigation with no arrest at the moment.

- (b) The Police had deployed manpower flexibly from the Marine Regional Task Force Headquarters, Crime Marine Regional Headquarters and Police Tactical Unit to Cheung Chau Division to conduct a number of high-profile patrol at targeted places and licensed premises. In August, for example, officers of Cheung Chau Division joined hands with the said units and conducted on the island a total of 13 operations codenamed LEVINGTON in addition to the normal anti-crime patrol.
- (c) Besides, the Police worked to ensure public safety by, for example, implementing Project AMAZONITE in Cheung Chau, joining hands with District Fight Crime Committees to strengthen ties with the local community and stepping up the neighbourhood watch via the use of security cameras to raise the crime coefficient and enhance safety.

130. Mr KWONG Koon-wan said that as far as he knew, there were seven cases of splashing paint which had not been reported to the Police by the victims. He hoped the Police would pursue the matters and take actions. He was pleased that suspects were arrested in connection with some cases. He hoped the Police would disseminate information to allay the public's fears and anxiety and bring offenders to justice to strengthen the community's sense of safety and security.

131. Ms TSANG Kit-ying said that although it would be difficult to investigate unreported cases, the Police would strive to combat crime and continue to gather intelligence and there would be no mercy for offenders. On the other hand, the Police were concerned with the feelings of the public. It would continue to work closely with the District Councils and District Fight Crime Committees to organise community activities to maintain public confidence.

#### XIV. Question on provision of bank branches in Tung Chung (Paper IDC 94/2017)

132. The Chairman said that the written replies of the Hong Kong Monetary Authority (HKMA) and the three banks had been distributed to Members for perusal before the meeting.

133. Mr Holden CHOW presented the paper and noted the written replies. He hoped that HKMA and the three banks would follow up on the matter and make arrangement to enhance banking services to meet the future demand in Tung Chung.

134. Mr Bill TANG urged the Bank of China (Hong Kong) to set up self-service banking facilities (including passbook update machine and cheque deposit machine) in Tung Chung the soonest possible.

XV. Question on barrier gate failure of Yat Tung Estate Car Park  
(Paper IDC 95/2017)

135. The Chairman said that Link Asset Management Limited (The Link) could not arrange representatives to attend the meeting but had provided a written reply for Members' perusal.

136. Mr Bill TANG presented the paper and criticised that The Link made a sloppy written reply without providing the reason for failure of the barrier gate and the suspension data, etc. He said that with the growing vehicular traffic in Yat Tung Estate and the opening of No.3 Car Park, nuisance would be caused if the barrier gate could not always function and people had to rely on the staff of HD management office to give assistance. He criticised that The Link had its eye on profit only and failed to make improvement proactively, making the residents suffer and HD the scapegoat. That was unfair. He hoped The Link would follow up and that his views would be put on record.

XVII. Progress on District-led Actions Scheme  
(Paper IDC 108/2017)

137. The Chairman welcomed Mr Benjamin AU, Assistant District Officer (Islands) of IsDO to the meeting to present the paper.

138. Mr Benjamin AU briefly presented the paper.

139. Ms LEE Kwai-chun said that during the onslaught of Typhoon Hato in Hong Kong on 23 August, the telecommunication network in Cheung Chau was cut off with the network services suspended for hours, leaving residents unable to make contact with others. She hoped the relevant departments would follow up, otherwise residents would be unable to seek assistance in case of emergency and the consequences would be serious.

140. Mr Anthony LI said that IsDO learned that some of the telecommunication services were suspended for some time in Cheung Chau on the day in question. Following the previous discussion at the District Council meeting on the emergency response plan after the telecommunication breakdown in Tai O, IsDO was following up with the Office of the Communications Authority, HKPF and the Fire Services Department to look into the cases of Tai O and Cheung Chau and would update Members in due course.

141. Mr WONG Man-hon said that in the rural areas and villages on Lantau, mosquitoes were rampant after dark and he hoped large-scale mosquito control operations would be launched.

XVIII. Proposed Schedule of Meeting of IDC and its Committees in 2018  
(Paper IDC 73/2017)

142. Members noted and endorsed the paper.

XIX. Report on the work of the Islands District Management Committee (July 2017)  
(Paper IDC 99/2017)

143. Members noted and endorsed the paper.

XX. Reports on the Work of the IDC Committees and Working Group  
(Papers IDC 100-106/2017)

144. Members noted and endorsed the paper.

XXI. Allocation of DC funds

(i) Up-to-date Financial Position on the Use of DC Funds  
(Paper IDC 107/2017)

. Members noted and endorsed the paper.

(ii) Approval for Using DC Funds by circulation from 1 June to 31 July 2017  
(Paper IDC 109/2017)

145. Members noted and endorsed the paper.

XXII. Date of Next Meeting

146. There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:44 p.m. The next meeting would be held on 23 October 2017 (Monday) at 2:00 p.m.

-End-