

(Translation)

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

Date : 18 March 2020 (Wednesday)
Time : 10:30 a.m.
Venue : Islands District Council Conference Room

Present

Mr WONG Man-hon (Chairman)
Ms LAU Shun-ting (Vice-Chairman)
Mr YU Hon-kwan, Randy, MH, JP
Mr CHOW Yuk-tong, SBS, MH (Left at 1:20 p.m.)
Mr YUNG Chi-ming, BBS, MH
Mr CHAN Lin-wai, MH
Mr WONG Hon-kuen, Ken
Mr HO Chun-fai
Mr HO Siu-kei
Ms WONG Chau-ping
Ms TSANG Sau-ho, Josephine
Ms YUNG Wing-sheung, Amy
Mr KWOK Ping, Eric
Mr TSUI Sang-hung, Sammy (Arrived at 10:35 a.m.)
Mr FONG Lung-fei
Mr LEE Ka-ho
Mr LEUNG Kwok-ho
Mr WONG Chun-yeung

Attendance by Invitation

Dr Michael WONG	Chief Manager, Kowloon West Cluster/Princess Margaret Hospital Deputy Hospital Chief Executive (Operations)/North Lantau Hospital Deputy Hospital Chief Executive, Hospital Authority
Dr LUK Wan	Chief of Service, Department of Family Medicine and Primary Health Care, Kowloon West Cluster, Hospital Authority
Mr Thomas KAN	Senior Hospital Administrator, North Lantau Hospital, Hospital Authority
Mr KWOK Chi-hang	Administrative Assistant/Lands, District Lands Office/Islands Lands Department
Ms TAM Wing-yan, Veronica	Assistant District Leisure Manager (Islands)1, Leisure and Cultural Services Department

Miss LEUNG Tin-ye, Christy Assistant District Officer (Islands)2, Islands District Office

In Attendance

Mr LI Ho, Thomas	Assistant District Officer (Islands)1, Islands District Office
Ms CHAN Sok-fong, Cherry	Deputy District Leisure Manager (District Support) Islands, Leisure and Cultural Services Department
Ms KWOK Lai-kuen, Elaine	Senior Librarian (Islands), Leisure and Cultural Services Department
Ms WONG Fan-ni, Jasmine	Senior Manager (New Territories South) Promotion, Leisure and Cultural Services Department
Mr WONG Kin-sun	Senior Community Relations Officer (Hong Kong West/Islands), Independent Commission Against Corruption
Ms KWAN Wai-yin, Katy	Senior School Development Officer (Islands)2, Education Bureau
Mr WONG Chi-leung	Assistant District Social Welfare Officer (Central Western/Southern/ Islands)2, Social Welfare Department
Ms YUEN Wai-kwan	Representative, Association of School Heads of Islands District
Mr LAM Kit-sing	Representative, Islands District Sports Association
Ms CHOI Kwok-por	Representative, Hong Kong Islands Cultural & Art Association

Secretary

Miss LAM Po-yan, Eloisa Executive Officer (District Council)1, Islands District Office

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Welcoming remarks

The Chairman welcomed Members to the first meeting of the current-term Community Affairs, Culture and Recreation Committee of the Islands District Council (IDC), and introduced the representatives of organisations and government departments present.

I. **Hospital Authority overall measures and service arrangement to combat epidemic**
(Paper CACRC 12/2020)

2. The Chairman welcomed Dr Michael WONG, Chief Manager, Kowloon West Cluster / Princess Margaret Hospital Deputy Hospital Chief Executive (Operations)/North Lantau Hospital (NLH) Deputy Hospital Chief Executive; Dr LUK Wan, Chief of Service, Department of Family Medicine and Primary Health Care, Kowloon West Cluster and Mr Thomas KAN, Senior Hospital Administrator, NLH of the Hospital Authority (HA) to the

meeting to present the paper.

3. Dr Michael WONG and Dr LUK Wan briefly presented the paper with the aid of PowerPoint presentation.

4. Mr WONG Chun-yeung expressed his views as follows:

- (a) Frontline healthcare workers of NLH reflected to him that supply of masks was inadequate. He considered the situation just the tip of the iceberg and hoped that HA would provide adequate equipment for frontline healthcare workers as early as possible. He requested IDC and the representatives of HA to put the matter on record.
- (b) With regard to circulation of pictures online comparing the protective clothing and equipment of the Police and that of healthcare workers, he hoped that the equipment of frontline healthcare workers would be in line with that of the Police. He enquired if it was unnecessary for healthcare workers to put on full gear because of their relatively high awareness and knowledge of epidemic prevention.
- (c) He was satisfied with the arrangements of Designated Clinics which could help ease the social atmosphere.

5. Mr LEUNG Kwok-ho expressed his views as follows:

- (a) Some staff of St. John Hospital (SJH) reflected that there was inadequacy on the part of HA in equipment management. For example, if a doctor put on an unfit mask mistakenly, other staff might have to put on masks not of the right size consequently and became more prone to infection due to limited quantity of masks of each size.
- (b) With regard to the accusation that Pamela Youde Nethersole Eastern Hospital used unregistered antibiotics, he enquired whether it was related to the COVID-19 pandemic, why unregistered drugs were used and whether it had grave impact on the treatment.
- (c) SJH sometimes used helicopters to transport patients. Having noticed the frequent use of helicopters recently, he enquired whether helicopters would be

deployed for transporting suspected cases or only in emergencies. Residents of Cheung Chau were very concerned but he was informed that there was only one suspected case in the area after checking with SJH. He enquired of HA whether suspected cases and patients in urgent condition were separately transported by the Marine Police and helicopter.

6. Mr LEE Ka-ho expressed his views as follows:

- (a) He pointed out that many passengers entered Hong Kong via the Airport and Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge (HZMB), the two border control points on Lantau Island and in Tung Chung. He enquired whether passengers with COVID-19 symptoms would be first transported to NLH; and if so, how the hospital would handle such cases to reduce the contact of suspected cases with other patients given the lack of surveillance wards or isolation wards therein. Some news reports suggested that there were more than 20 suspected cases from a group of travellers from the United Kingdom. If they were all sent to NLH, other patients would be worried of being infected.
- (b) He enquired of HA about the number of suspected cases transported to NLH and subsequently transferred for isolation. In late January, some news reports suggested that a suspected case escaped when being transferred from NLH to Princess Margaret Hospital (PMH) and could not be found. He enquired of HA whether it had taken any measures to prevent recurrence of similar incidents and reviewed why the patient could escape, and whether there were any similar cases. Since NLH was located adjacent to Yat Tung Estate, Tung Chung, the public was concerned about community infection.

7. Ms Amy YUNG expressed her views as follows:

- (a) She requested HA to provide Members with a soft copy of the PowerPoint slides for scrutiny.
- (b) European countries were less than pro-active in combating the epidemic. Consequently, many students and people living in Europe returned to Hong Kong and inbound flights were all full. She enquired of HA about its contingency plans and how it would cope with the situation if a large number of passengers were infected.

- (c) As the present situation was critical, the staff of HA should be united to handle the crisis. Previously, frontline staff resorted to strike to press for prompt closure of border control points so as to stop the spread of the virus. They were not evading responsibility but the authority squared accounts with them afterwards. She learnt that HA or top government officials issued warning letters to those who went on strike, which seriously compromised the morale of frontline staff. In view of the severity of the epidemic, some staff who had taken part in the strike volunteered to join the teams taking care of suspected and confirmed cases and their spirit was laudable. It was learnt that a doctor in charge of radiotherapy department resigned and worked as a consultant rather than submitting a list of staff who had taken part in the strike. She hoped that at such critical moment, HA would make professionalism a priority and not be influenced by political consideration.

8. Mr Sammy TSUI expressed his views as follows:

- (a) With regard to redeployment of general medicine wards in North District Hospital for anti-epidemic uses and suspension of some non-urgent services and surgeries mentioned by the representative of HA, he queried whether there was adequate manpower and ancillary facilities to cope with the number of confirmed patients. At present, neither the Government nor the Department of Health (DH) had increased the manpower of healthcare workers and he hoped that HA would provide an explanation.
- (b) He enquired of HA about the actual location of the Designated Clinics and whether there were any of them on Lantau Island or in Tung Chung.
- (c) Since the implementation of anti-epidemic measures, members of the public felt that the actions and decision-making process of the Government were tardier than those of nearby regions or other international cities. Sometimes, doctors provided professional advice via newspaper or other information platforms which did not necessarily coincide with the policies of DH or the Government. As such, he enquired of the Government about the justifications for implementing the anti-epidemic measures and policies.
- (d) Following the directives of the World Health Organisation (WHO), many countries rejected entry of people of other nationalities but Hong Kong did not implement relevant measures. He hoped that Hong Kong would not lag

behind other countries in anti-epidemic measures. Otherwise, entry of infected patients in Hong Kong would continue, thus increasing the risks of infection. Hong Kong should admit overseas students only, excluding persons of other nationalities, which was also the practice of other countries. He enquired how HA would advise the Government to plug the loophole.

- (e) While the number of infections in Hong Kong was relatively low, it was unforeseeable whether the situation would deteriorate. Recently, there were 2 000 to 3 000 new cases in Wuhan per day and the number of infections continued to rise in Italy. He opined that there was a lack of co-ordination between the policies of HA, DH as well as the Government, and enquired how communication could be enhanced.

9. Ms Josephine TSANG enquired whether HA had provided guidelines to private companies, organisations or property management companies on compulsory home quarantine for staff returning from overseas trips. The daughter of her colleague went on a trip to Japan and one of the passengers on her flight was infected. As her colleague lived with her daughter, the former was advised to undergo home quarantine for 14 days to safeguard the safety of other staff and members of the public. Her colleague was not satisfied with the arrangement as the Government did not impose such restriction. She was later informed by HA that as the daughter seated in a section far away from the confirmed case, her colleague was not required to undergo quarantine and could go to work as usual. She enquired whether HA had issued guidelines in respect of the situation, stating that passengers on the same flight with a confirmed case but in a different section was not subject to quarantine.

10. Mr Eric KWOK expressed his views as follows:

- (a) The Public Private Partnership Programme of HA in collaboration with private hospitals was mentioned in the paper. He enquired whether NLH had diverted patients to other private hospitals; and if yes, what the private hospitals were.
- (b) It was also stated in the paper that some urgent surgeries, obstetrical and gynaecological cases as well as paediatric cases of PMH were referred to NLH. To his understanding, provision of day surgery, day rehabilitation obstetrics and gynaecology as well as paediatric services of NLH would be postponed. He was concerned that NLH had to handle cases referred by PMH and cater

for the medical needs of residents of Tung Chung and South Lantau at the same time, resulting in short supply of its services.

11. Mr HO Siu-kei said that the global epidemic situation was serious. Taking into account the considerable number of overseas students subject to 14-day quarantine and rapid tests upon their return under the prevailing policy, he enquired what efforts had been made by HA in terms of manpower resources, materials and facilities to ensure safe reunion of overseas students and their families.

12. The Chairman asked the guests to respond to the enquiries in turn.

13. Dr Michael WONG made a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) He said that the staff of many hospitals had reflected inadequate supply of masks. He had briefed Members that more than 20 million masks were in stock at present and no major problem would arise if the supply was stable, which was unfortunately not the case and the existing masks had to be used for a certain period of time. To avoid depletion of stock within one or two months, he hoped that the staff would make good use of the masks.
- (b) With regard to protective clothing, members of the public might see some staff of government departments wearing when on duty white protective coverall suits, which seemed to be better in quality than the protective gowns worn by staff of HA. When scrutinising protective clothing in the past, HA found that protective coverall suits might not be suitable for healthcare workers because there was greater risk of contamination when doffing them. The blue or yellow protective gowns being used by HA could be taken off more easily with a smaller risk of contamination. Ever since the outbreak of SARS, white protective coverall suits had not been used.
- (c) With regard to the size of surgical masks, he pointed out that there were only two kinds, i.e. for adults and children. Under normal circumstances, staff were provided with adult size masks while child-size ones were for patients only. For N95 masks, HA usually provided two to three sizes and the staff had to undergo tests before putting them on. Normally, only one or two sizes would fit so it was necessary to provide masks of various sizes in each hospital. When masks of a certain size was in shortage, HA would encourage the staff who could wear masks of two sizes to use the one with more stock to allow for

flexibility of arrangement.

- (d) With regard to unregistered drugs, there were similar situations in the past. When the main supplier ran out of stock of certain drugs, the hospitals might try to purchase the drugs from other places or pharmaceutical companies which had not sold the drugs in Hong Kong before. As such, the drugs might not be registered with DH but it did not imply that they were inferior goods. Such arrangement was made only under compelling situation and the main problem lay with the supply chain. It took only one month in the past but three months at present to place an order. As the drugs had been registered locally, the public could rest assured that they were safe to take despite not registered with DH.
- (e) With regard to the issue of helicopter, the use of helicopters to transport patients hinged on the urgency of the case. HA could not prescribe the use of helicopters or vessels for transportation of patients of a certain illness. Some members of the public made enquiries to HA after witnessing the transportation of patients by paramedics in full protection equipment. They were worried that someone in the vicinity of their residence was infected with COVID-19 and demanded daily announcement of the suspected cases which, however, were in a great number that HA could not make all public. The public could watch the press conference held daily at 4:30 p.m. Hospitals would conduct tests of the virus three times a day. If no confirmed case of a certain area was announced at the press conference held the following day, it implied that no COVID-19 case was recorded in the area the day before.
- (f) Recently, many residents returned to Hong Kong via the Airport. People declared to have symptoms of the epidemic including fever, coughing and sore throat at the border control points would be diverted to various hospitals excluding NLH which did not have quarantine facilities. If there were not too many cases, all returning residents with symptoms would be sent to PMH. Otherwise, some of them would be diverted to other hospitals to avoid over-burden of a single hospital. He reiterated that the Centre for Health Prevention (CHP) and HA would arrange diversion of suspected cases to various hospitals.
- (g) With regard to the escape of a suspected case when waiting for transfer from NLH to PMH, he said that patients classified as suspected cases in the

Accident and Emergency Department (A&E) of NLH would be assigned to the quarantine wards to wait for transfer to the infectious disease wards of PMH by ambulance. He pointed out that most patients were co-operative and only a few tried to leave on their own. In those cases, the hospital would usually report to the Police who would try to locate and escort the patients back or call them to request their return. He said that so far only one patient left NLH without permission and returned later so there was no cause for undue concern.

- (h) He said that a soft copy of the PowerPoint presentation could be provided to Members after the meeting.

(Post-meeting note: Soft copy of the PowerPoint presentation had been provided by HA to Members via the Secretariat after the meeting.)

- (i) With regard to how HA would deal with the sudden increase in the number of patients, he pointed out that the existing pressure did not come from the confirmed cases with a number of around 160 only at present. While there were new cases continuously in the past two months, some patients were discharged from the hospital so HA could still cope with the situation. Pressure mainly came from the large number of suspected cases daily. All patients with fever or coughing symptoms and records of travelling outside Hong Kong would be admitted to the hospital. In order to expedite the testing procedures, tests were conducted three times a day. Patients tested negative could be discharged or transferred to general wards to vacate beds of negative pressure wards (NPWs). HA was planning to convert some general wards into NPWs so that there would be adequate NPWs when the situation worsened and patients of infectious disease would not be assigned to general wards.
- (j) With regard to the issue of strike, it was learnt that some staff reported to have taken part in the strike returned to work as usual. It was necessary to understand whether the staff concerned were absent from work for the whole week or only on some days, and whether they only performed part of their duties on the days they were present. Therefore, HA would write to some staff to obtain relevant information for follow-up. HA was busy handling the epidemic and had no time to pursue the strike. At the present stage, efforts were made to understand the situation and warnings would not be issued.

- (k) With regard to manpower, HA had temporarily suspended non-emergency services to deploy staff for handling the epidemic so its manpower was adequate for the time being. In addition, the usage rate of A&E had decreased as the public went to private hospitals instead of A&E unless necessary. He supplemented that only some surgeries were suspended while cancer or urgent ones (such as appendectomy) would go on as usual. If the epidemic deteriorated unfortunately, more services would be suspended and some cancer surgeries might be postponed.
- (l) With regard to how the Government obtained various information, he could not answer on its behalf. HA obtained information from various clusters of hospitals via the Central Committee on Infection Control (CCIC). It also liaised with CHP and the Food and Health Bureau (FHB) on a daily basis in order to discuss countermeasures and actions in response to the development of the epidemic and provide advice to the Government through CHP and FHB.
- (m) The function of HA was to protect the health of the public. It did not provide multinational companies with special guidelines on the arrangements for staff returning to Hong Kong. However, drawing reference from the practice of HA, staff returning from overseas in the previous two days were arranged to work from home to avoid contact with the patients. Staff who returned earlier (for example, two weeks before) were usually deployed to handle logistical work and would not come into direct contact with the patients. In response to Members' remarks that the staff of HA contacted Hong Kong residents on the same flight with confirmed cases, he clarified that such duty should be performed by CHP, which scrutinised close contacts of each case. Usually, close contacts were family members, colleagues and people who had meals at the same table or talked for more than 15 minutes with the person concerned, excluding people whose seats were relatively far away. He reiterated that it was CHP's duty to trace every case, arrange close contacts to move into quarantine facilities and advise non-close contacts to measure body temperature as well as report their condition to CHP every day.
- (n) With regard to whether NLH had referred cases to private hospitals, he said that NLH did not provide services of newborn jaundice or cancer radiotherapy. As such, it did not refer such cases to private hospitals but PMH referred some cases (mainly medical inpatients) to NLH. NLH had 120 beds, among which

60 were in emergency medicine wards while the remaining were in concerned medical extended care wards. NLH had deployed 20 beds from acute medicine wards to medical wards, which at present had 80 beds altogether for accommodating medicine inpatients from PMH. As the number of persons seeking consultation at A&E decreased, the utilisation rate of acute medicine wards was lower than usual and provision of services for Tung Chung residents were not affected. In response to reports about referral of obstetrical and gynaecological patients to NLH, he pointed out that out-patient obstetrics and gynaecology services were newly introduced with short waiting time so the referrals would not affect service provision in NLH. The time lapse between follow-up consultations was also relatively long. As such, the patients did not have to visit the hospital frequently and provision of services for Tung Chung residents would not be affected.

- (o) With regard to whether HA arranged quarantine and virus testing for returning students, he said that persons not admitted to hospitals did not fall within the purview of HA. CHP would conduct relevant work and testing samples would be sent to the central laboratory of DH for testing. As such, the amount of tests conducted and various services provided by HA would not be affected.

14. Dr LUK Wan appreciated Mr WONG's support for the service of the Designated General Outpatient Clinic (GOPC). None of the 18 existing Designated GOPCs was located in Islands District, and the nearest one was Mrs Wu York Yu GOPC, Lei Muk Shue in Kwai Tsing District. There were four Designated GOPCs on Hong Kong Island, including Shau Kei Wan Jockey Club GOPC in Eastern District, Violet Peel GOPC in Wan Chai District, Kennedy Town Jockey Club GOPC in Central & Western District and Aberdeen Jockey Club GOPC in Southern District. In February of the current year, HA had sent the address of the 18 Designated GOPCs to IDC Secretariat from which Members could obtain relevant information.

(Post-meeting note: On 7 February of the current year, the Secretariat had forwarded the email about the Designated GOPCs of HA to Members.)

15. Mr LEUNG Kwok-ho expressed his views as follows:

- (a) HA said that it lacked time to handle the issue of strike because of the epidemic. He enquired whether in the past HA had pursued the staff who took part in the strike or enquired of them about the details of strike. He

opined that staff did not go to work for their own reasons and queried whether not going to work was tantamount to taking part in the strike. He also enquired whether HA was implying that it would pursue the issue if it had time. He said that healthcare workers, based on their professional knowledge, suggested shutting down the border the best anti-epidemic measure and took part in the strike with an aim to alleviate the epidemic. He hoped that HA would respond whether there was staff strike in the past and whether the follow-up work of HA was the same as present.

- (b) IDC had invited HA to attend meetings to discuss matters related to COVID-19 twice but the bureau only provided written reply. HA attended the current meeting only because it had to introduce the services of NLH. He enquired whether HA would still provide written reply if it was invited to the meetings to discuss COVID-19 related matters in the future. As early as January of the current year, IDC had enquired of HA about responsive measures to the epidemic. If the Government had closed the border control points early or the top management of HA had advised the Chief Executive to do so, the impact of the epidemic might be alleviated
- (c) He was dissatisfied with HA for not publicising the figure of suspected cases claiming that there were too many and enquired if HA would cease publicising the number of confirmed cases as well if it increased to avoid panic. He pointed out that case nos. 107 and 123 had stayed in Cheung Chau. While the detailed address of places where case no. 107 stopped by was publicised, only the fact that case no. 123 was a staff member of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) who had visited Cheung Chau Market was made public. He queried why HA did not publicise the places the staff passed through when going to Cheung Chau Market from Cheung Chau Pier, and said that such practice would make it hard for the public to believe the information provided by HA.

16. Mr WONG Chun-yeung expressed his views as follows:

- (a) HA said that 20 million masks were not adequate for use by healthcare workers. As such, he proposed that IDC should purchase masks to support hospitals of Islands District. He pointed out that residents of Tung Chung were very empathetic and told him that they were willing to share masks with security and cleansing personnel or even HA staff to fight the epidemic with

concerted effort

- (b) He pointed out that many people believed the protective equipment of healthcare workers was inadequate while that the Police had protective coverall suits, and so the authorities should explain to the public that double standards were not involved. He enquired whether HA would allow politics overriding professionalism, and if a request, supported by authority, for the same protective equipment as that of the Police was made by frontline healthcare workers, whether HA would entertain the request.

17. Ms Amy YUNG expressed her views as follows:

- (a) She thanked Dr WONG for mentioning that standard procedures for taking off protective gowns were available to prevent contamination. She learnt from the news that a large amount of protective clothing was allocated to certain government department and was puzzled. As the department concerned was not equipped with relevant professional qualifications and knowledge of taking off or using relevant protective clothing, she opined that it was a waste to provide the department with relevant protective clothing. She hoped that the authorities concerned would follow up on the matter and consider seriously whether resources should be allocated to departments which lacked professional knowledge when facing a shortage of resources. She also hoped that HA would teach staff of departments concerned to don and doff protection equipment and called upon departments concerned not to hoard a large amount of protective clothing as frontline healthcare workers had more pressing need for it.
- (b) She hoped that the representatives of HA, as professionals, would respect and maintain their professional conduct but not blindly listen to political appointees of the higher hierarchy, particularly the Chairman of HA, as they might not be equipped with professional knowledge and their decisions might lack respect for the professionalism of the healthcare workers. She pointed out that healthcare workers had been devoted to tackling the epidemic and had no time to fill in forms to report staff attendance. She hoped that the representatives of HA would maintain their professional conduct and character and refused to provide mediocre political appointees with relevant information.

18. Mr Sammy TSUI enquired whether all persons entering Hong Kong would have to undergo mandatory quarantine for 14 days regardless whether they had symptoms or not, and whether the measure was followed up by DH or CHP. Some Tung Chung residents reflected that they felt uneasy about encountering people returning from the Mainland, as they were uncertain whether these people were undergoing quarantine and concerned about the risk of contamination. He learnt from media reports that spot checks would be conducted by DH but he queried their effectiveness and would like to learn more about these monitoring measures.

19. Mr LEE Ka-ho expressed his views as follows:

(a) He thanked the representatives of HA for giving response. HA said that the issue of strike was temporary shelved because of the epidemic. He queried if the underlying implication was that the matter would be pursued in the future. He opined that it was not unreasonable for healthcare workers to resort to strike to strive for closure of the border control point to minimise the impact of the epidemic locally. At present the Red Travel Alert had been issued by the Hong Kong Government against the world (apart from Mainland China, Macau and Taiwan), and many European countries were locked down, proving that the request of the healthcare workers was not unreasonable.

(b) He enquired whether the three patients who escaped in the process of transportation had been found and what the details were. In addition, the representatives of HA said that arrangements would be made for patients to attend follow-up appointments later, or via video call. He enquired about the criteria for deciding on postponement of follow-up appointments and what should be done if the patients' conditions suddenly deteriorated, as well as how to judge if a patient was suitable for video consultation and whether it would cause the elderly inconvenience and affect treatment.

20. Dr Michael WONG made a consolidated response as follows:

(a) With regard to the issue of strike, HA understood that its intention of the healthcare workers who had taken part was to help Hong Kong. HA had no time to handle the matter at present. When the epidemic was over, the matter would be dealt with according to the established mechanism in a reasonable and legal manner but not squaring accounts with the participants as mentioned by a Member. There was no cause for concern to the public and healthcare

workers who had taken part in the strike. Everyone should be united to combat the epidemic.

- (b) He was apologetic for failing to attend IDC meetings at the beginning of the epidemic. HA would endeavour to attend meetings when the epidemic situation stabilised. Members with any enquires could approach HA direct.
- (c) He explained on behalf of CHP how it traced the whereabouts of confirmed cases. CHP would make records of the places the confirmed cases had been to where people there might be in close contact with them, but not the places they passed through. As such, only Cheung Chau Market was recorded for case no. 123. He emphasised that his explanation did not fully represent the position of CHP.
- (d) He explained that 25 million masks were very adequate under normal circumstances. However, HA was concerned that supply would be unstable and therefore urged healthcare workers to use them with caution. He appreciated the donation and support of District Councils, local organisations and the public.
- (e) He said that the CCIC stipulated the standard for usage of protective equipment. For example, what equipment should be used when in contact with confirmed patients and handling bio-chemical weapons. The committee consisted of professional doctors, microbiologists and infection control experts and was responsible for stipulating the usage standards of protecting equipment. HA would adopt the advice of CCIC and relevant policies were independent of administrative or political interference and were totally medical profession-oriented.
- (f) Mainlanders entering Hong Kong who had completed the 14 days quarantine had freedom of movement. Following the quarantine was 14 days of medical surveillance conducted by CHP for any abnormalities in body temperature and symptoms. After undergoing 14 days of quarantine, the persons concerned had relatively low risk of virus transmission.
- (g) While it was reported by the media that three persons escaped from NLH, he clarified that there was only one. The other two left after obtaining approval from CHP.

- (h) With regard to the arrangement of follow-up appointments, video consultation was limited to allied health services, such as physiotherapies, occupational therapies and general out-patients of psychiatric illness. At present, there was no such arrangement for other faculties but the possibility of implementation in the future was not ruled out. Video consultation would be conducted only after ensuring that patients were able to operate mobile devices. Most patients who needed follow-up were of chronic illness. For those whose illness was stable, appointment would be arranged at a later date and thus less appointment. If reports showed that there were abnormalities, patients would be immediately informed to attend appointments. That was a contingent arrangement and it was hoped that the number of appointments would resume normal after the epidemic.

21. Mr WONG Chun-yeung said that HA at first said that 25 million masks were not adequate for use by healthcare workers, but later said the other way round. He enquired whether its stock was adequate or not. He also enquired whether there were special reasons for hoarding masks and not supplying them to frontline healthcare workers. He understood that HA was busy tackling the epidemic and thus unable to attend meetings. However, the epidemic was not serious in Hong Kong on 17 January when IDC meeting was held. IDC did not request the attendance of frontline healthcare workers and the attendance of administrative staff would suffice. He queried that HA lacked sincerity to attend the meetings.

22. Ms Amy YUNG said that a certain law-enforcing department hogged a large amount of protective clothing and masks but lacked professional knowledge of using them, which was indeed a waste. She further enquired whether HA would arrange professionals to provide guidance or issue guidelines to the department to avoid waste of resources.

23. Ms Josephine TSANG proposed that HA should produce a short video and broadcast it on television in order to teach those in need to don and doff protective equipment. Apart from healthcare workers, security guards, cleansing staff and policemen would come into contact with suspected cases. If they made improper use of protective equipment due to lack of relevant information, the spread of epidemic might be exacerbated. While there were such video on the Internet, it would not be convenient for use by those who had little knowledge of the Internet.

24. Mr Randy YU thanked the contribution of HA and healthcare workers during the

epidemic. He opined that Mr WONG Chun-yeung's proposal of donating masks should be considered, but that hinged on the quantity of masks purchased. He asked the Secretariat to report on the situation of mask procurement using District Council (DC) funds. He said that at present, there were mask supplies at cost price of \$1.95 each in the market. If procurement procedures were complied with, the \$1 million DC funds could be used for purchasing approximately 500 000 masks. He proposed that each of the 18 Members of IDC should be provided with 250 000 for distribution to the residents. The remaining 50 000 masks could be donated to healthcare workers and elderly homes. He enquired whether the Secretariat could expedite the procurement procedures.

25. Dr Michael WONG made a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) Healthcare workers had worked-to-rule in the past and held assembly, but there was no precedent of strike. As such, the matter would be dealt with according to normal personnel procedures. With regard to whether the supply of masks was adequate, he said that HA had about 85 000 staff members and each could be provided with 300 masks, which was very sufficient for a single month. However, as HA could not guarantee a stable monthly supply in future, it hoped that the staff would use masks according to established procedures cautiously.
- (b) He formally apologised on behalf of HA for its failure to arrange representatives to attend previous meetings and reiterated that Members could contact HA or NLH direct for enquiries. He said that HA would send representatives to future meetings as far as practicable.
- (c) He explained that HA could not supervise other government departments, but DH would provide opinions on putting on protective equipment to other government departments. HA's infection control experts were busy combatting the epidemic at present and had no time to attend to needs of other government departments. He believed that DH could deploy staff and advised other government departments. In addition, educational videos about donning and doffing of protective equipment had been produced for HA staff. However, there were various types of protective equipment, especially protective clothing. The models purchased by other organisations might be different from those of HA. Therefore, the video might not be useful for all. He would relay Ms Josephine TSANG's proposal to DH and CHP requesting the departments to disseminate the knowledge to members of the public or

particular organisations.

26. The Secretary responded that matters of mask procurement were followed up by Islands District Office (IsDO). Regarding the procurement situation and the proposal of keep using DC funds of the coming year to purchase masks, the Secretariat would keep abreast of the latest developments from IsDO and inform and consult Members afterwards.

(Post-meeting note: After the meeting, the Secretariat informed Members via email of the latest mask procurement situation and consulted Members on the use of DC funds to purchase masks via circulation paper.)

27. Mr LEUNG Kwok-ho said that rural committees (RCs) were provided on 6 March with an extra anti-epidemic subsidy of \$30,000. As a Member of IDC, he had to handle epidemic prevention work as well but was not provided with the subsidy, and therefore enquired of IsDO the reasons for it. He pointed out that despite Cheung Chau's large population of around 30 000 to 40 000, only a subsidy of \$30,000 was provided as there was only one RC. However, subsidies of \$60,000 in total were provided to Lamma Island as there were two RCs. As such, he would like to raise two enquiries: first, why subsidies were provided for RCs but not elected Members; and second, the apportionment of subsidies and the criteria based.

28. Mr LEE Ka-ho enquired whether the masks purchased by IDC were certified. He hoped that only those certified would be purchased in future so that the public would know whether masks were up to standard.

29. Ms Amy YUNG pointed out that recently IDC distributed 1 100 masks and 400 hand sanitisers to Members. She was the only DC Member for Discovery Bay and the constituency had a population of around 20 000. She had purchased some anti-epidemic materials at cost price for distribution to members of the public in Discovery Bay including Peng Chau residents who worked there. She could not understand why Peng Chau residents could not obtain anti-epidemic materials from the DC Member of its constituency. She opined that distribution of masks evenly among DC Members was unfair and illustrated by comparing Lamma Island which had a population of 6 000 with three DC Members and other constituencies with one DC Member serving more than 20 000 people.

30. Mr Thomas LI said that with regard to Mr LEUNG Kwok-ho's enquiry of the \$30,000 subsidies provided for RCs, he would try to understand the matter after the meeting and provide a reply afterwards. He said that the masks and hand sanitisers purchased by

IsDO were evenly distributed to 18 Members.

(Post-meeting note: IsDO had replied Mr LEUNG Kwok-ho about the subsidies to RCs after the meeting.)

31. Ms Amy YUNG enquired once more whether materials would be distributed according to population of the constituency but not per DC Member.

32. Mr Thomas LI said that IDC would discuss future procurement and distribution of masks in due course and IsDO would follow up according to the results of discussions.

33. Mr LEUNG Kwok-ho hoped that Mr Thomas LI would reply him regarding the subsidies to RCs within a week.

(Mr Sammy TSUI joined the meeting at around 10:35 a.m.)

II. Question on phase 2 development of North Lantau Hospital
(Paper CACRC 5/2020)

34. The Chairman welcomed Dr Michael WONG, Chief Manager, Kowloon West Cluster / Princess Margaret Hospital Deputy Hospital Chief Executive (Operations)/NLTH Deputy Hospital Chief Executive; Dr LUK Wan, Chief of Service, Department of Family Medicine and Primary Health Care, Kowloon West Cluster and Mr Thomas KAN, Senior Hospital Administrator, NLTH of HA to the meeting to respond to the question. HA had provided a written reply for Members' perusal. FHB said that it had nothing to add to the written reply of HA and did not send representatives to the meeting.

35. Mr LEE Ka-ho briefly presented the question.

36. Dr Michael WONG briefly presented the written reply.

37. Ms Amy YUNG said that HA replied that NLTH would provide service in form of hospital instead of providing support only when its phase 2 development progressed to stage 2. However, COVID-19 was likely to become an endemic and as NLTH might be turned into a quarantine centre given its proximity to HZMB and the Airport, she enquired whether HA could expedite the works progress so that phase 2 of NLTH could be used for quarantine purpose to alleviate the burden of other hospitals.

38. Mr LEE Ka-ho expressed his views as follows:

- (a) He did not understand why the arrangement for provision of specialist services in phase 2 was still being considered and queried that the Government only said that there 300 beds were available without making any comprehensive plans when constructing the hospital. In a recent discussion on the construction of MTR stations in Tung Chung, the Government replied that resident intake in Tung Chung reclamation area would commence in 2023. After the second and third batch of residents moved in, the population would increase from 100 000 to 200 000. If the second ten-year development plan would only be taken into account in 2026, he was worried that it could not meet the medical needs arising from population growth in Tung Chung.
- (b) In addition, he was concerned about the utilisation of hospital beds. It had been seven years since the commissioning of NLTH in 2013. Of the existing 160 beds, 42 had not been used, including 10 day beds. He queried when the 300 beds provided would be fully utilised after completion of phase 2 of the hospital in 2026. As HA said that beds were not fully utilised due to shortage of healthcare workers, he opined that the bureau should recruit more healthcare workers as soon as possible to avoid leaving beds unused.

39. Ms Josephine TSANG pointed out that the population of Tung Chung would increase rapidly from 200 000 to 270 000 in the following 10 years. She was concerned that the time for the works of phase 2 development would be insufficient if it commenced in 2026. In addition, as there was no dental hospital in Tung Chung, she enquired whether dental services would be introduced in phase 2 expansion.

40. Mr Eric KWOK expressed his views as follows:

- (a) The previous term of IDC recommended converting NLTH into a general hospital. However, according to the Audit Report 2018, out of the total area of around 13 729 sq. metres of NLTH, 2 687 sq. metres or 21% was vacant. He queried whether HA had made good use of the vacant land. He did not object to the use of phase 2 development as a data centre or for provision of catering or laundry support for NLTH or other public hospitals. However, it should not be wasted due to lack of comprehensive planning.

- (b) At present, the population in Tung Chung was 120 000, including 46 000 in Yat Tung Estate and 12 000 in Mun Tung Estate. While 7 000 people would move into Yu Tai Court by the end of the year, the population intake of Areas 99 and 100 in Tung Chung New Town Extension in three years and that of Areas 103 and 109 in five years would reach 32 000 and 30 000 respectively according to the Housing Department (HD). To meet the medical demand from population growth, he proposed converting phase 1 of NLTH into a general hospital. Although coordination of healthcare workers and training took time, there would be batches of new graduates in medicine, nursing and pharmacy in the coming one to two years. He hoped that HA would make good use of NLTH on a people-oriented basis to meet the needs of residents of Tung Chung and the South Lantau Development.

41. Mr Sammy TSUI expressed his views as follows:

- (a) If phase 2 development of NLTH had to be completed after 2026, it was a disregard of the medical needs of Hong Kong people and the existing problem of crowdedness of hospitals in the urban area. He queried that the Government slowed down the progress of phase 2 development because the population of Tung Chung had yet reached its criteria and would implement the project only when the population increased. He opined that given the area of NLTH, installation of only 160 beds was unreasonable. He hoped that the progress of phase 2 development would be expedited and commissioned as soon as possible.
- (b) At present, Tung Chung had a small population and NLTH could provide support for hospitals in the urban area. Amid the height of the epidemic, hospitals in the urban area (including PMH and Queen Elizabeth Hospital) had been overloaded so resources should be better utilised. With regard to the shortage of healthcare workers, he proposed recruitment of overseas talents to cope with the development of NLTH.
- (c) He opined that the use of phase 2 development for laundry support was a waste of resources. As hospitals in the urban area and healthcare workers were overloaded, the management of HA should reflect the situation to the Government and strived for improvement of services. As professional doctors, representatives of HA should have identified the problems early and progress of phase 2 development should not be made before 2026. As

mentioned by other Members, resident intake of two Home Ownership Scheme (HOS) projects would commence in the coming year and the population would increase by 10 000. With the completion of reclamation area as well as Areas 99 and 100 in 2023, there would be at least 10 000 to 20 000 people moving in. If works of phase 2 began only by that time, staff deployment might be difficult for HA given that hospitals in the urban area were already overloaded at present and the manpower would be tighter by then. He requested HA to strive for early implementation of phase 2 development.

42. Dr Michael WONG responded as follows:

- (a) With regard to the planning of hospital, while he could not reply on behalf of FHB, he explained that the Government determined the number of hospital beds and made decisions on construction and expansion of hospitals across the territory according to the population. The final decision was to provide 500 beds in NLTH. The Government calculated the needs for beds first while the bureau planned for the scope of service after completion of the hospital. The relevant 10-year plan stipulated the overall planning of HA. Members could rest assured that design work would be conducted based on the service-oriented principle. According to the existing timetable, the specialist services of phase 2 of NLTH had not been determined, but it was guaranteed that more of them would be provided.
- (b) He said that many hospitals (including Tuen Mun Hospital, Haven of Hope Hospital, Queen Mary Hospital, Kwai Chung Hospital, Kwong Wah Hospital, Kai Tak Hospital, Prince of Wales Hospital, Our Lady of Maryknoll Hospital, Grantham Hospital, North District Hospital and PMH Building) were scheduled for expansion and reconstruction whereas NLTH was not a priority project. As such, it was difficult to advance the timetable.
- (c) FHB and HA had conducted manpower planning according to the needs of the hospital but shortage of manpower existed. He pointed out that staff wastage rate, which was relatively serious in the previous two years, was an important indicator of whether service was affected. Taking doctors as an example, the wastage rate had risen from 5% to 6% which was close to the number of medical graduates per year. As such, no new services could be rolled out. HA hoped to retain manpower and cut wastage rate in order to roll out new

services.

- (d) There had been shortage of manpower since a few years ago. Having regard to the assessment conducted by the Audit Commission, HA had accorded priority to NLTH for increasing manpower. Its services had been increased progressively but it was neither feasible to provide all services within a year nor leave the newly recruited nurses and doctors to man the 300 beds. More comprehensive services could be provided only after healthcare workers had accumulated adequate experiences. Under normal circumstances, it was believed that the remaining services could be provided within the current year.
- (e) With regard to quarantine facilities, there were two NPWs in each NLTH ward, each could accommodate one patient of infectious illness, such as measles and tuberculosis. They were used to accommodate suspected COVID-19 cases, including those who might not have travel and exposure history. At present, there was no plan for NLTH to accommodate COVID-19 cases. As it was not cost-effective to re-train all healthcare workers to take care of one or two COVID-19 patients. Therefore, COVID-19 cases were segregated at PMH. In the future, HA might consider provision of NPWs at the new clinical block to handle patients entering Hong Kong from border control points.

43. Mr Eric KWOK enquired how to utilise the remaining 2 867 sq. metres. As a number of women living in Tung Chung reflected to him the lack of obstetrics and gynaecology services in NLTH, he enquired whether obstetrics and gynaecology services would be introduced in tandem with gradual improvement in specialist services.

44. Dr Michael WONG responded as follows:

- (a) Dental services were provided in some hospitals which catered for in-patients, unlike the dental out-patient service of DH. There was division of labour between HA and DH. As such, even if dental department was set up in phase 2 of NLTH, out-patient services would not be provided.
- (b) He explained that Phase 1 of NLTH could not provide obstetrics and gynaecology services as a neonatal intensive care unit (ICU), in addition to doctors and nurses in the specialty, were needed. If newborn babies required intensive medical care, immediate transfer to PMH would not be feasible. While there was no space for neonatal ICU in phase 1 of NLTH, provision of

obstetrics and gynaecology services could be considered during expansion. Obstetrics and gynaecology services were concentrated in eight major hospitals in Hong Kong, excluding North District Hospital so patients of the district had to give birth at Prince of Wales Hospital. In the past, pregnant women did not have to give birth at hospitals but in maternity homes with the help of midwives. They were low-risks cases referred to places without neonatal ICU

45. Ms Amy YUNG expressed her views as follows:

- (a) She understood that many hospitals required expansion or provision of additional facilities and that NLTH was not accorded priority. She opined that the Government did not perform well in financial budget distribution. While healthcare workers were in short supply and hospitals lacked hard and soft infrastructure at present, other departments were allocated a large amount of resources.
- (b) Frontline workers and professional staff such as doctors, nurses, and nursing staff performed very well in the COVID-19 pandemic and were respectable. She thanked them for enduring political pressure to protect frontline workers and step up training of healthcare talents. She pointed out that even before the outbreak of COVID-19, healthcare workers had been overloaded and nothing could have been accomplished without their sense of mission. She appreciated professional healthcare workers staying in Hong Kong to safeguard the city and did not wish to see them putting political interests first. She queried the professionalism of the Chairman of HA appointed by the Government and hoped that healthcare professionals and the Financial Secretary would withstand political pressure and HA would not put political pressure onto professional departments which would increase their workload.

46. Mr LEE Ka-ho appreciated the detailed response of Dr WONG. Dr WONG said that in planning hospitals, the Government would take into account the population of the area and hospital beds required. According to the “Hong Kong Planning Standards and Guidelines” there should be 5.5 beds per 1 000 people but there were less than three beds for every 1 000 people in Yuen Long. Having regard to the future population development of Tung Chung, the standard could not be met with the existing beds of NLTH, not even with the additional 300 beds planned for phase 2 development. In Hong Kong, there were only less than four beds for every 1 000 people, which was far from the standard prescribed.

Taking into account the epidemic and the problem of aging population, the healthcare needs were ever increasing. He hoped that the number of beds provided could meet the standard in future expansion of hospitals.

47. Mr Sammy TSUI expressed his views as follows:

- (a) With regard to the lack of healthcare workers after hospital expansion, he enquired whether Hong Kong relied only on colleges and universities for training of personnel, and whether DH and HA could put extra resources to offer training courses with a view to recruiting more medical students for future hospitals.
- (b) He enquired whether HA would let students graduate early having regard to social issues or the epidemic. It was reported that 10 000 medical students in Italy graduated early to join the workforce. He enquired whether HA would consider similar arrangements.
- (c) At present, manpower arrangement for hospital was made by the Government, which acted tardily and failed to resolve the problem. Dr WONG said that many hospitals needed reconstruction and under the same set of policies, it would be difficult to tackle healthcare issues in the coming 10 years. At present, some medical graduates or senior doctors preferred working in the Mainland where many healthcare organisations had connections with Hong Kong. He enquired how HA, as a management organisation, would control the wastage of healthcare workers.

48. Mr WONG Chun-yeung said that since he took office as DC Member, he had received on average two requests per week from residents for converting NLTH into a general hospital. Although Dr WONG responded that it might not be achieved within a short period of time, there were pressing demand for Otorhinolaryngology in particular and he hoped that HA would take it into account.

49. Dr Michael WONG responded as follows:

- (a) With regard to the planning ratio of population and hospital beds, the Government would take into account beds in private hospitals in addition to those in public hospitals so the number of beds in total would increase. There were fewer hospital beds in Kowloon West than other districts. In the

following two ten-year plans, the number of hospital beds would continue to increase in the hope of reaching the target.

- (b) Doctors' training comprised two parts: graduation from the Faculty of Medicine of universities and specialist training. The number of school places of Faculty of Medicine was negotiated by the universities and the Government. Each year there would be about 400 medical graduates and recently the number of admission was around 500. It was also anticipated that the number of graduates would increase a few years later. Specialist training for the medical graduates was conducted by each specialist academy but it was only open for those who worked for HA. Doctors of private hospitals' doctors could not receive such training as private hospitals were not recognised training venues.
- (c) Each specialist academy would decide on its own whether to increase the number of school places. For the case of surgery, the academy would determine the qualification for graduation by the number of hours, which was related to the amount of acceptable service provided.
- (d) In recent years, HA started to recruit overseas doctors who fell into two categories. One was specialists certified abroad who could directly be recruited to fill in the same position in Hong Kong. So far there were 20 to 30 specialist working in HA. However, as the situation in Hong Kong deteriorated, the number of overseas specialists applying to work in HA had decreased. Another type was doctors undergoing specialist training overseas. They could continue their specialist training in Hong Kong if being recruited after interview. Specialist training lasted for six years during which the specialists recruited had to pass a basic examination and then a mid-term examination in the third year, whereas recruited non-specialist had to pass the mid-term examination. HA was considering the recruitment of less experienced overseas doctor and the matter was still subject to discussion.
- (e) Overseas doctors had language barrier but the provision of clinical service would require mastery of Cantonese. As such, HA mainly aimed at encouraging Hong Kong people studying overseas to return and practise in Hong Kong. There were relatively few doctors of other nationalities. For specialities such as Pathology and Radiotherapy, doctors of other nationalities could be recruited.

- (f) HA would pro-actively consider the proposal of addition of Otorhinolaryngology.
- (g) The management of HA mainly comprised doctors or professional nurses who respected professional self-determination and seldom put administration, and certainly not politics, before professional.

50. Mr Sammy TSUI further enquired about the feasibility of early graduation of medical students.

51. Dr Michael WONG said that medical students had to pass various examinations before graduation. Cancellation of an examination had serious implications and the issue fell within the purview of the Medical Council after negotiation with the universities. He reiterated that the proposal should be considered carefully.

III. Question on setting up District Health Centre to Islands District (Paper CACRC 4/2020)

52. The Chairman said that FHB had provided a written reply for Members' perusal. HA said that District Health Centre (DHC) did not fall within the purview of HA and therefore did not send representatives to the meeting.

53. Mr LEE Ka-ho briefly presented the question.

54. Mr Eric KWOK expressed regret over HA's failure to give response. It was stated in the press release of 24 September 2019 that the Government would provide \$550 million for setting up DHCs across the territory, with the first one in Kwai Tsing District. He supported the idea but raised two suggestions: first, dental service should be provided in the DHC Express set up in Tung Chung as dental service in Yat Tung Estate was inadequate; second, there should be no overlapping of the services of DHC and of hospitals. According to the press release, the services provided in Kwai Tsing DHC including primary healthcare service, health promotion, health check, chronic disease management and community rehabilitation were the same as those provided in hospitals. He was worried that there would be competition for manpower and urged caution on part of HA.

55. Mr LEE Ka-ho expressed his views as follows:

- (a) He was disappointed with FHB's failure to send representatives to the meeting and said that the reply of HA did not comprehensively reply to the enquiry. He was dissatisfied that the site had yet been confirmed. He opined that the healthcare system in Hong Kong had been overloaded and the inadequacy of healthcare manpower and public hospitals services remained unresolved after years of discussion. With the ageing and ever-increasing population in Tung Chung, inadequacy of healthcare service was a time bomb.
- (b) Improvement of primary healthcare was proposed by WHO in 1986 and the Government in the Policy Address 1990. However, DHC was implemented only at present, 30 years later and the progress was slow. If primary healthcare was provided, residents could avoid going to the hospital for issues minor or major. He proposed that basic health check be provided at DHC Express to detect illness early and thus lower the admission rate.
- (c) He hoped that the Government would expedite the programme and make public the timetable, site selected and the organisation responsible for operation as early as possible.

IV. Question on provision of mobile branch service by Hang Seng Bank
(Paper CACRC 6/2020)

56. The Chairman said that Hang Seng Bank (HSB) had provided a written reply for Members' perusal.

57. Mr FONG Lung-fei briefly presented the question.

58. Mr WONG Chun-yeung expressed his views as follows:

- (a) He moved a provisional motion and requested writing to various banks in the name of IDC to invite them to send representatives to the meetings to respond to Members' enquiries and/or motions. He believed that if the banks were willing to handle the matter, they would have no difficulty in arranging representative to attend the meetings. He was disappointed that HSB, as one of the major banks in Hong Kong, did not send representatives to the meeting, which made it was difficult for him to explain the matter to the residents.

- (b) He pointed out that the locations of the automated teller machines (ATMs) in the area were remote. Some residents found it difficult to adapt to the touch screen and some could not use the ATMs because they did not understand Chinese, whereas the operating hours of counter service could not cater for the working population. As such, he once again requested the Chairman to approve the provisional motion to request HSB to respond to the matter.

59. Mr LEE Ka-ho said that bank services were woefully inadequate in Tung Chung and he hoped that the situation would put on record. While there were bank branches in Tung Chung Town Centre and MTR Station, only ATM was provided in the vicinity of Tung Chung North, Caribbean Coast, Coastal Skyline and Ying Tung Estate. There were pressing needs for ATMs and e-Banking services. Shortage of such services might have little impact on the young people but the elderly would find it very inconvenient. As such, apart from sending representatives to the meetings, the banks should also be concerned of the demand for bank services of the Tung Chung community.

60. Ms Josephine TSANG opined that letters should be sent to various banks as HSB might not respond to the requests in good time and other banks might be interested in the proposal. As such, she hoped that the Secretariat would write to invite various banks to set up mobile branches in Yat Tung Estate and Mun Tung Estate, Tung Chung and consider opening branches later. There was only a branch of Chong Hing Bank (CHB) in Yat Tung Estate while in Fu Tung Estate only a branch of the Bank of East Asia Ltd (BEA) and Bank of China (BOC) were set up. The elderly tended to use the services of the Hong Kong Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited (HSBC) and HSB. She opined that more banks should be invited to provide services in various housing estates in Tung Chung.

61. Mr Eric KWOK expressed his views as follows:

- (a) He opined that local banks lacked corporate social responsibility and conscience. Over the years he had requested HSBC, BEA, HSB, CHB and Standard Chartered Bank to provide bank services in Yat Tung Estate. The 24-hours self-service banking centre located in Yat Tung Estate had been in operation for more than 15 years. He agreed with Mr FONG Lung-fei's view that since HSB had arranged a mobile branch to serve Mun Tung Estate and Ying Tung Estate, it should make good use of resources by arranging the mobile branch to serve Yat Tung Estate as well. He hoped that the Chairman would agree to write to HSB to relay the request.

(b) As Hong Kong International Airport Terminal 2 had been closed for reconstruction, the HSBC branch there had been relocated to Citygate to continue providing services. He hoped that HSBC would set up a branch in Yat Tung Estate to meet the needs of the elderly.

62. The Chairman agreed that the Secretariat should write to various banks to request provision of counter withdrawal and deposit service and mobile branch in Yat Tung Estate and Fu Tung Estate in Tung Chung instead of resorting to provisional motion.

63. Mr Sammy TSUI hoped that request for provision of bank services in Mun Tung Estate, Yat Tung Estate and Ying Tung Estate in Tung Chung was specified in the letter.

64. Mr WONG Chun-yeung raised a provisional motion as follow:

“Mr WONG Chun-yeung hoped that in the name of IDC, a letter would be issued to all major banks to request active participation in the affairs of the 18 DCs, including sending representatives to meetings to respond to enquiries and regularly participating in IDC activities as invited.”

65. The Chairman reiterated that there was no need to handle the matter in the form of provisional motion as the Secretariat could write to banks to relay the request.

66. Mr Sammy TSUI requested that the demand for bank services in Mun Tung Estate, Yat Tung Estate, Ying Tung Estate and Fu Tung Estate should be mentioned in the letter and that of the new housing estates should not be disregarded.

67. The Chairman agreed.

V. Question on sports competitions sponsored by Islands District Council
(Paper CACRC 7/2020)

68. The Chairman welcomed Ms CHAN Sok-fong, Cherry, Deputy District Leisure Manager (District Support) Islands of the Leisure and Cultural Service Department (LCSD) to the meeting to respond to the question. LCSD had provided a written reply for Members’ perusal.

69. Mr LEUNG Kwok-ho briefly presented the question. He pointed out that the written reply of LCSD did not stipulate the size, number of participants and eligibility requirements of Islands District's sports competitions and hoped that LCSD would give a response. He opined that LCSD had provided a comprehensive written reply to the "touting" problem. He hoped that the department would continue to curb "touting" activities and prosecute offenders in order to safeguard the rights of residents of Islands District in the use of sports centres under LCSD. He learnt that some people used LCSD's sports centre for commercial purpose but the departments concerned did not exercise supervision. He urged LCSD to step up efforts to combat such practices. He pointed out that as all members of the public were welcome to participate in competitions sponsored by IDC (such as Islands District basketball competition), only a few residents of the district could successfully take part in some competitions after the participants were selected by drawing lots. In other words, the resources of Islands District were used to sponsor people of other districts. He noted that priority was given to residents of the district in participating in athletics and swimming activities and hoped that the same principle would be applied to other sports activities.

70. Ms Cherry CHAN said that LCSD had all along endeavoured to popularise sports activities as well as encouraged and facilitated the public to take part in the sports and recreational activities organised by LCSD, so that a habit of exercising would be developed. As such, members of the public were allowed to take part in sports and recreational activities in other districts. In order to encourage people to take part in competitions of their respective districts, residents and students of a district were given enrolment priority in some competitions (such as athletics and swimming competitions) held therein. LCSD would extend the principle of enrolment priority to other competitions according to the actual situation and availability of resources. However, it had to be pointed out that if only residents were allowed to enrol in a competition, its enrolment must be affected to a certain extent. LCSD would closely monitor the enrolment situation of sports competition and would make adjustments to relevant arrangements timely. In addition, LCSD would continue to combat "touting" activities and update the systems in due course. At present, the measures had achieved certain effects and when an intelligent sports and recreation services booking and information system (intelligent booking system) was rolled out, "touting" activities could be curbed more effectively.

71. Mr Sammy TSUI said that all members of the public were welcome to take part in certain competitions (such as Islands District basketball competition) sponsored by IDC. Non-residents would make use of the loophole to occupy the quotas and resources for a long time. As a result, only a few residents of Islands District could enrol in some competitions.

He opined that non-residents should take part in sports competitions of their respective districts. It was unsatisfactory to sponsor non-residents with the resources of IDC. If certain sports activities could not attract adequate number of residents to participate, they should not be organised to avoid non-residents occupying the district's resources. He reckoned that the people concerned might apply for activities of various districts and such behaviour was similar to "touting". He opined that IDC should stipulate the enrolment requirements of sports activities and step up supervision to combat "touting" activities.

72. Mr LEE Ka-ho hoped that LCSD introduced the intelligent booking system in detail, including how it would be launched in two phases. He was concerned that when the second phase was rolled out four years later, the technology the system applied would be outdated.

73. Mr LEUNG Kwok-ho said that the sports activities sponsored by IDC were held in different areas of the district in turn generally, whereas popular events would be held at Sun Yat Sen Memorial Park Sports Centre. As all members of the public were welcome to participate in competitions sponsored by IDC, teams from various districts, including some of professional levels would participate in popular events. Participants of Islands District found it difficult to compete with them and a few teams might win the competitions of various districts. In addition, he learnt that some competitors of the Hong Kong Games provided fake addresses and he was dissatisfied that LCSD did not verify them.

74. Ms Cherry CHAN responded as follows:

- (a) Relevant divisions of LCSD were very concerned about the "touting" issue and had formulated relevant anti-touting measures which would be implemented by the 18 District Leisure Services Offices. LCSD would update the booking system from time to time and verify the identities of the hirers when they registered to take up the booked sessions to combat "touting" activities. LCSD would continue to closely monitor the situation and combat "touting" activities.
- (b) The first phase of the intelligent booking system was mainly for use by individuals who could make enquiries, book venues and apply for sports and recreational activities via a smartphone application. The second phase would be enhancement to the venue booking function by organisations. LCSD could also monitor the booking of various venues by relevant organisations via the system to step up combating "touting" activities.

- (c) With regard to the provision of fake addresses for the Hong Kong Games, she pointed out that all participants had to provide proof of address and LCSD would conduct investigation on suspected cases. For age-group athletic and swimming competitions of Islands District, the quota for participants from district itself was no more than a half while non-residents were welcome to take up the remaining quota so as to promote sports in the community. Islands District was relatively remote with less population. Compared to residents of the urban areas, residents Islands District could enrol in sports and recreational activities of the district more easily.

75. Mr LEUNG Kwok-ho noted that LCSD was endeavouring to improve the situation. He pointed out that if 40% to 50% of the participants were Islands District residents, it implied that the principle of giving residents enrolment priority was feasible and the arrangement could improve the atmosphere of the competitions.

76. Ms Cherry CHAN said that LCSD would continue to monitor the applications for competitions and timely enhance the existing arrangements.

(Mr CHOW Yuk-tong and Ms YUEN Wai-kwan left the meeting at around 1:20 p.m.)

VI. Question on renovation of park facilities
(Paper CACRC 8/2020)

77. The Chairman welcomed Ms Cherry CHAN, Deputy District Leisure Manager (District Support) Islands of LCSD to the meeting to respond to the question. LCSD had provided a written reply for Members' perusal.

78. Mr LEUNG Kwok-ho said that he had no intention to repeat the content of the question. He pointed out that the existing recreational facilities were normally suitable for use by residents of a certain age group only. He hoped that LCSD would provide facilities suitable for people from all walks of life. He pointed out that the existing recreational facilities were not provided with no acoustic zone or noise mitigation equipment and as a result, the residents nearby often suffered from noise nuisance, especially at night. Some residents even sought assistance from the Police and arguments between residents arose due to noise problems. He proposed that LCSD would delineate acoustic zone or install noise mitigation equipment near recreational facilities to prevent the users from causing noise nuisance to the residents nearby.

79. Ms Cherry CHAN responded as follows:

- (a) LCSD had provided a written reply with regard to the provision of acoustic zone or noise mitigation equipment and she had nothing to supplement. LCSD noted and welcomed Mr LEUNG Kwok-ho's proposal of designing recreational facilities suitable for users of all ages. However, the types, quantity and design of LCSD's recreational facilities were limited by the area of the venue. LCSD would endeavour to meet the needs of different people and closely liaise with IDC in respect of future works so that the facilities would cater for the residents.
- (b) With regard to noise nuisance caused by residents using recreational facilities at night, she pointed out that pitches/courts of LCSD closed at prescribed times. There were plants in the vicinity of the recreational facilities for beautification and noise mitigation purposes. With regard to the proposal of delineating acoustic zone or installing noise mitigation equipment, she opined that effective noise mitigation equipment tended to be unaesthetic but Members were welcome to provide specific information on noise mitigation equipment for follow-up by the department.

80. Mr Eric KWOK said that he had pointed out in the previous term of IDC that users of Tung Chung Road Soccer Pitch caused noise nuisance. Some residents reflected the same problem recently and he had sought assistance from the Police. According to the minutes of previous meetings, LCSD had arranged security guards to patrol at night. He proposed that LCSD should liaise with HD for deployment of the latter's security guards to patrol at the recreational facilities and advise users to lower their noise. He would enquired about recruitment of additional security guards at the next meeting.

(Post-meeting note: LCSD, in view of the above situation, had requested the security service contractor to step up patrol at night and closely monitor the noise condition at Tung Chung Road Soccer Pitch. If irregularities were found, the contractor should advise the users to lower their noise and report to LCSD. In addition, LCSD would conduct blitz inspections and request the Police to step up patrol in the vicinity of Tung Chung Road Soccer Pitch.)

81. Mr HO Chun-fai said that there was a lack of standard soccer pitches and basketball

courts on Lantau Island. The design of the pitch was unsatisfactory where formal competition could hardly be organised. Although there was a vacant land beside the pitch, it was under the purview of the Lands Department (LandsD) and members of the public were not allowed to enter it. He said that he would write in the name of RC to request the departments concerned to follow up on the matter after the meeting.

82. Ms Cherry CHAN said that with regard to the issue of noise nuisance at Tung Chung Road Soccer Pitch, LCSD had liaised with HD which said that it could not deploy its security guards to patrol the venue. In that regard, LCSD had hired additional staff for the work. It would also closely monitor the situation and urge the security guards to step up patrol. After the meeting, LCSD would follow up with Mr HO Chun-yeung on matters related to the design of South Lantau Soccer Pitch.

83. Mr WONG Chun-yeung said that large groups of people of various nationalities assembled at the recreational facilities in Tung Chung and caused noise nuisance. The security guards hired by LCSD often rested in the guard room and did not patrol the recreational areas. He understood that the security guards might encounter uncooperative members of the public and be ignored. He also noticed that some South Asians sold drugs at the park adjacent to Ngong Ping Cable Car Terminal. He therefore advised LCSD to seek assistance from the Police to tackle the problem of noise nuisance and maintain law and order.

(Post-meeting note: LCSD had requested the Police to step up patrol and assistance and it would closely monitor the situation.)

84. Mr LEUNG Kwok-ho said that Ms Cherry CHAN said that more effective noise mitigation equipment tended to be unaesthetic. However, he opined that with the existing technology, effective equipment could be produced without compromising the appearance. LCSD could use basic noise mitigation equipment such as placing plastic panels near recreational facilities. He opined that it was a waste of time and efforts for LCSD to implement remedial measures after completion of the works and receipt of complaints and requested the department to consider in advance matters related to noise mitigation in future planning of recreational facilities.

85. Ms Cherry CHAN said that LCSD noted Mr WONG Chun-yeung's views and would seek Police's assistance when necessary in order to tackle the problem of noise nuisance and maintain law and order. LCSD would maintain close contact with IDC in the future planning of recreational facilities to ensure that they would meet the residents' needs.

VII. Question on request for conversion of bicycle parking spaces near Tung Chung Road Soccer Pitch into children's playground

(Paper CACRC 11/2020)

86. The Chairman welcomed Ms Cherry CHAN, Deputy District Leisure Manager (District Support) Islands of LCSD; Mr KWOK Chi-hang, Administrative Assistant/Lands, District Lands Office/Islands (DLO/Is) of LandsD and Miss LEUNG Tin-yee, Christy, Assistant District Officer (Islands)² of IsDO to the meeting to respond to the question. LandsD had provided a written reply for Members' perusal. HD said that the location did not fall within its purview so it did not send representatives to the meeting.

87. Mr Eric KWOK briefly presented the question.

88. Mr KWOK Chi-hang briefly presented the written reply.

89. Ms Cherry Chan said that LCSD had all along promoted diverse recreational and sports facilities and as far as possible constructed suitable facilities to meet public needs. LCSD noted Mr Eric KWOK's views. If Mr KWOK wished to take forward the item further, he could submit a District Minor Works (DMW) proposal via the District Facilities Management Committee (DFMC), as proposed by LCSD at the meeting on 24 June 2019. If the project was supported by IDC, LCSD would take forward the works and be responsible for its maintenance and repairs in the future.

90. Miss Christy LEUNG said that the project could be considered by the relevant department under the DMW Programme.

91. Mr WONG Chun-yeung expressed his views as follows:

(a) The issue was like a boomerang. DLO/Is said that it had not received advice from other government departments. Given that IDC was only a consultative body, he queried that after Members' proposals were endorsed at IDC or DFMC, they did not have the authority to decide relevant arrangements.

(b) He requested LCSD to provide solutions. At present, a feeling of helplessness pervaded the Hong Kong society. Members confronted each other because of different political views. He enquired whether LCSD and LandsD could implement the proposal more efficiently. If the proposal was

unconstructive, Members could conduct a rational discussion. He considered Mr Eric KWOK's proposal feasible which LCSD should consider.

92. Mr LEUNG Kwok-ho agreed with Mr WONG Chun-yeung's view. After the motion was endorsed, the Secretariat should take follow-up actions. He did not understand why a motion was raised again, making the procedures complicated. He believed that LandsD and LCSD should understand the matter as their representatives were present at the previous meeting. He queried why the departments claimed that no proposals had been received from Members.

93. Mr Eric KWOK said that the motion was endorsed by the previous term of IDC. Construction of the children's playground was the responsibility of LCSD so it should give response and offer advice to IDC, including the feasibility of converting the children's playground, etc. He appreciated the response of LandsD and believed that it would lend its support when the proposal was raised at DFMC. He hoped that LandsD and IsDO would expressively pledge to support the project if it was discussed at DFMC meetings. He enquired whether LCSD would be responsible for its future maintenance and repair work if the project was endorsed at a DFMC meeting. Or else, even if hardware was constructed, lack of maintenance would render the project infeasible. He hoped that a vote would be taken on whether IDC supported him raising the proposal of converting the children's playground in form of district minor works at the following DFMC meeting.

94. Ms Amy YUNG said that apart from follow-up and submission of progress report by departments concerned, the Chairman should also be responsible for communicating with the departments and taking follow-up actions. She did not want to see the issue simply left unresolved after the meeting. She proposed adding "Important Items" to the agenda of the following meeting which required various departments to report the work progress and funding situation so as to keep Members informed of the progress.

95. Ms Josephine TSANG said that she was the seconder of the motion which was unanimously endorsed by IDC and departments concerned were also aware of it. However, half year had passed and LandsD said that it had not received advice from other government departments, which was tantamount to discussing the project all over. She hoped LCSD would endeavour to handle the conversion project. Both Mun Tung Estate and Yat Tung Estate lacked relevant facilities so she hoped that the government departments concerned would step up communication and implement the works as soon as possible.

96. Mr Sammy TSUI said that the land had been vacant for many years. He requested

the representative of LandsD to brief its long-term development plan and whether any departments had submitted applications for specific uses. It would be undesirable if Members found that the vacant land had been planned for specific uses after raising relevant proposals. He opined that it was more practical for Mr Eric KWOK to move a motion requesting LCSD or HD to apply for zoning the land for specific uses. He reiterated that first of all, it should be clarified whether some departments had made applications for use of the vacant land and what the use was.

97. Mr FONG Lung-fei said that in the previous term of IDC, he had written to the Director of Leisure and Cultural Services to request identification of vacant land in the vicinity of Yat Tung Estate for construction of playground or recreational facilities. However, LCSD replied that there was no idle site. He noticed that no bicycle was parked at the bicycle parking site at Chung Yan Road off Hong Yat House and Yung Yat House because there was theft of bicycle parts. The site was currently used for drying cured meat, hanging clothes and placing objects. The oil of cured duck and meat caused rodent infestation. He requested LCSD to consider conversion of the vacant land as well.

98. Ms Cherry CHAN made a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) Under normal circumstances, the DMW Programme of DFMC could fund projects costing up to \$30 million. Implementing the project under the DMW mechanism was the most suitable and expeditious channel.
- (b) At the meeting in June 2019, LCSD also advised that if IDC implemented the project under DMW Programme, LCSD would be happy to be responsible for the venue's maintenance and repairs in the future.

99. Mr KWOK Chi-hang said that LandsD was not responsible for implementing projects on recreational facilities or children's playgrounds and therefore its role was relatively passive. After receiving applications for land allocation from the department in charge of projects on recreational facilities or children's playgrounds, LandsD would process accordingly and consult relevant departments (in regard of planning for example) if necessary. If departments (LCSD for example) applied for land allocation, LandsD would be pleased to support and coordinate. According to the information available, no department had plans to develop the site. LandsD hoped that the relevant departments would submit applications in good time.

100. Miss Christy LEUNG said that if the DMW works proposal submitted by Members

at DFMC meetings was endorsed, IsDO would handle the application according to the established mechanism, and trust that LCSD would consider the feasibility of the proposal.

101. Mr Randy YU understood that LandsD played a relatively passive role. However, the previous term of IDC unanimously endorsed the plan. While it was not legally binding, LCSD should take the initiative to take follow-up actions. If the initial budget exceeded \$30 million that IDC or LCSD could not fund the project, IDC should immediately set up a working group to seek funding from various government bureaux and departments. Alternatively, it could submit an application to the Legislative Council (LegCo) via LegCo Members. While the proposal was shelved, he proposed that the issue should be incorporated into agenda of the coming DFMC meeting and consent of Members and Chairman of DFMC should be immediately sought. If LCSD said that the budget exceeded \$30 million, a contingency plan should be made. If the budget was below \$30 million, IDC and LCSD should lead in implementing the project. He considered such arrangement more practical.

102. Mr Sammy TSUI expressed his views as follows:

- (a) He hoped that LCSD would rectify its passive attitude. Playgrounds and recreational spaces to population in a district must reach a certain ratio and LCSD should review whether the required standard was met in Tung Chung. It should also actively seek land to develop such facilities instead of being passive.
- (b) He agreed with Mr WONG Chun-yeung's views that the functions of DC should be elevated to the level of Urban Council. Intake of Mun Tung Estate had begun and the population would increase. The Government should actively review whether ancillary facilities in the vicinity were adequate and the scope for expansion to provide more spaces for the residents instead of delaying implementation of the project.
- (c) At present, the project was to be handled by DFMC and LCSD would be responsible for maintenance. It gave people a feeling that LCSD was evading responsibilities. As we all knew, construction of recreational facilities and parks was under the purview of LCSD. He hoped that LCSD would not be passive in constructing recreational facilities on the excuse that there were more spaces in Tung Chung than in the city. He opined that a consultative body with no genuine power urging a department with actual power to take

actions was putting the cart before the horse.

103. Mr Eric KWOK said that the development of children of Mun Tung Estate and housing estates in the vicinity should be taken into account. He was appreciative of the positive response of the three departments. As the three departments had pledged to conduct follow-up work and the Chairman of DFMC was present, he hoped that a vote would be taken on whether the project would be submitted to the following DFMC meeting for implementation as a DMW.

104. Mr LEE Ka-ho did not understand why the project was not yet implemented despite being endorsed in the previous meeting. While the matter could be discussed again, Members had no way of knowing which endorsed items were implemented and which were not. It was out of chance that Mr Eric KWOK learnt that the works had not yet commenced and the reason behind was that no application had been submitted. If Members requested HA to act on epidemic prevention but it did not take follow-up actions, there was no way to pursue if there was a serious outbreak which almost caused casualties. He enquired whether IDC had a mechanism in place to monitor the implementation progress of the projects endorsed, or there were reports showing that they were in the process of implementation. He hoped that Mr Eric KWOK's proposal would be implemented as soon as possible.

105. Mr LEUNG Kwok-ho opposed putting the motion on the agenda of DFMC and opined that voting should be conducted immediately. Or else, the motion would have been moved twice if it was moved again at the committee meeting after the IDC meeting. At the same time, he was dissatisfied with inter-departmental communication. He queried that if mistakes had been made, whether the departments needed not to rectify them or be reprimanded. He accused the Secretariat for counting the votes wrong at the previous IDC meeting and did not follow up on the motion, thus wasting Members' time. He proposed putting on record all the mistakes committed and discussion be conducted at the following meeting on whether the Secretariat should be reprimanded. He understood that LandsD would act only upon receiving applications. The representative of LCSD, despite attending the meeting, claimed that the department was not informed. If the motion had to be submitted again after being endorsed, there would be no end to the matter.

106. Mr WONG Chun-yeung proposed that the representatives of LandsD and LCSD should draw reference from the mode of communication of the former Urban Council (UC). He pointed out that after UC was abolished, departments such as LCSD and FEHD were established. Consequently, the replies of the departments were incomplete and their handling of issues were inappropriate. After the motion was approved, LCSD and LandsD

did not attend meetings to respond to enquiries from Members. Compared with the current mechanism of DC, UC was more efficient that it could handle the matter concerned with 30% of efforts yielding 70% of results. In the case of DCs and committees under their charge, 70% of efforts was exerted and only 30% of results was yielded.

107. The Chairman said that as the guests had nothing to supplement, he proposed voting on the proposal of “handing the issue over to DFMC”.

108. Members voted by a show of hands. The result was 15 votes in favour and one against.

(Members voted in favour included: the Chairman Mr WONG Man-hon, the Vice Chairman Ms LAU Shun-ting, Mr Randy YU, Mr YUNG Chi-ming, Mr CHAN Lin-wai, Mr Ken WONG, Mr HO Chun-fai, Mr HO Siu-kei, Ms WONG Chau-ping, Ms Amy YUNG, Mr Eric KWOK, Mr Sammy TSUI, Mr FONG Lung-fei, Mr LEE Ka-ho and Mr WONG Chun-yeung. Mr LEUNG Kwok-ho voted against.)

VIII. Question on ecological concerns associated with installation of shark nets
(Paper CACRC 10/2020)

109. The Chairman welcomed Ms TAM Wing-yan, Veronica, Assistant District Leisure Manager (Islands)¹ of LCSD to the meeting to respond to the question. LCSD had provided a written reply for Members’ perusal. The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) said that shark nets of public beaches did not fall within its purview and therefore did not send representatives to the meeting.

110. Mr Randy YU briefly presented the question. He noted that active ingredient of Copper(I) oxide met the requirements of the Pesticides Ordinance and he regretted that AFCD did not respond to the enquiry. He opined that the department should confirm whether the ingredient would have any impact on the marine ecology. It was stated in the written reply of LCSD that mass loss of marine life was not observed but he pointed out that the situation occurred earlier this year. However, when he arrived at the scene for inspection after being informed by the residents, the dead marine animals had been removed. He proposed that LCSD should investigate if the antifouling paint used by the contractor matched the information provided, and whether formaldehyde or other pollutants were released as a result of wet paint. He hoped that LCSD could provide a written reply after the meeting.

111. Ms Veronica TAM said that when preparing the written reply, LCSD had sought information from the contractor and the information had been passed to AFCD for checking whether the pesticide used met the department's legal requirements. AFCD had confirmed that the requirements were met. LCSD noted Mr Randy YU's views and would seek further information from the contractor after the meeting and to confirm the material used matched the information provided.

112. Mr Eric KWOK suspected the death of a large amount of clams and Asian clams unrelated to shark nets. He proposed that LCSD or AFCD should arrange experts to investigate as the matter was related to marine ecology which should be handled with prudence or the consequences might be severe. He requested LCSD to submit a detailed report to IDC within the year in respect of the environment and seawater quality of the area to explain the cause of the incident so that appropriate measures could be adopted.

113. The Chairman said that some swimmers enquired whether the silt within the shark net area was removed regularly. He requested LCSD to give response.

114. Ms Veronica TAM said that at present, LCSD had not arranged contractors to remove the silt at the seabed inside the shark nets of beaches. She pointed out that the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) conducted regular tests on water quality of beaches during the swimming seasons for LCSD to determine whether the water was suitable for swimming or not. However, no test on water quality would be conducted after installation of shark nets. LCSD would liaise with relevant departments after the meeting to understand the feasibility of conducting the water quality test concerned.

115. Mr Eric KWOK requested LCSD to submit a timetable of the relevant report.

116. Ms Veronica TAM said that LCSD had to obtain information from relevant departments on the feasibility of conducting the water quality test concerned and the time required for completion of report. As such, she could not provide a timetable immediately.

(Post-meeting report: LCSD had requested the contractor to provide information. It had also conducted inspection at the site where shark nets would be installed and confirmed that the antifouling paint used by the contractor matched the information provided.

With regard to the proposal of arranging experts to conduct

investigation on the death of clams and Asian clams, as the shark net installation work for the current swimming season had been completed, LCSD would request the contractor to provide samples of the shark nets to LCSD before installation in the coming season. Tests would be conducted by outsourced testing agency to determine whether the ingredients of antifouling paint met the requirements of AFCD's Pesticides Ordinance. The relevant report would be submitted to Members for reference in due course. In addition, LCSD would also monitor the drying situation of pesticides when the nets were installed in order to reduce the possibility of releasing pesticides. For investigation on marine ecology, LCSD would study the feasibility of the relevant test with AFCD.)

IX. Question on fairness of district fund allocations
(Paper CACRC 9/2020)

117. The Chairman said that the IsDO had provided a written reply for Members' perusal. To facilitate discussion, he requested the Secretariat to briefly present the fund allocation procedures of Community Involvement Projects.

118. The Secretary briefly presented the fund allocation procedures.

119. Ms Amy YUNG briefly presented the question.

120. Mr Thomas LI thanked Ms Amy YUNG for raising the enquiry in the new term of IDC so that the Secretariat could make use of the opportunity to brief Members on the situation. He asked the Secretary to explain the charts and diagrams in the PowerPoint in detail.

121. The Secretary further explained the charts and diagrams in the PowerPoint.

122. Mr Thomas LI opined that Ms Amy YUNG was most concerned about whether resources could be allocated evenly according to population. He said that the aim of the briefing was to state that all eligible organisations serving the residents of the Islands District could apply for the fund for the Community Involvement Projects, regardless of the areas they belonged to. The Community Affairs, Culture and Recreation Committee (CACRC) and its vetting group would conduct vetting on the proposals submitted according to

established procedures in order to determine whether the projects were worthy of support and fund allocation.

123. Mr Sammy TSUI expressed his views as follows:

- (a) He understood that eligible organisations could submit applications. However, Ms Amy YUNG meant that on average, funding per capita of Discovery Bay was \$2.1, while that of other areas was \$67.4, implying an uneven distribution. He enquired whether there had been IDC funds left unspent.
- (b) Major district activities which required much resources such as Cheung Chau Bun Festival were organised in Islands District every year. He was not querying if funds should be allocated for organising the activity or the amount of funding. Instead, he was concerned that compared with other DCs, IDC needed more funds for organising regular major events, resulting in lack of funds for application by organisations in Discovery Bay or Tung Chung. He emphasised that the problem did not lie in the eligibility of the organisations but inadequate provisions to fund the activities even if organisations were eligible.
- (c) He said that he was not accusing activities of villages or Islands District for using a large amount of funds but opined that the cause of uneven resource distribution was inadequate funds. He enquired whether more funds would be allocated to Islands District in the coming year taking into account the uniqueness of its traditional activities.

124. Mr CHAN Lin-wai expressed his views as follows:

- (a) He appreciated Ms Amy YUNG's concern about Lamma Island. Ever since he joined IDC in 2007, Ms YUNG had time and again pointed out that it was unfair to have three DC Members serving the 5 000 population on Lamma. He explained that while the paper stated that the funds allocated to RCs accounted for 43% of the funds for all local organisations, there were altogether 90 villages and towns in the entire Islands District (including Lantau Island, Lamma Island, Peng Chau, Cheung Chau and other islands) with scattered population. The villages had been led by RCs and the villagers sought assistance from RCs for all matters. In addition, festive activities did

not only benefit the areas but also fostered local economy. As such, the eight RCs would actively organised activities.

- (b) Some said that there were only 6 000 people on Lamma Island. However, among all outlying island ferry routes, the fare of the ferry routes plying to and from Lamma Island were the cheapest. The fare of ferry routes was determined by usage. The ferry operators would be willing to provide service only if the population of Lamma Island was sufficient. He queried the accuracy of the figures provided by the Census and Statistics Department (C&SD).
- (c) With regard to fairness of funding, he said that the Secretariat had presented the criteria for fund application. While DC Members' ward offices were not eligible for applying for activity sponsorship, DC Members could guide and assist eligible organisations to submit fund applications. IDC would then determine allocating funds or not. He opined that the relatively few applications from Discovery Bay for organising activities might be reason for less fund allocated to the area. He advised Members to actively guide and encourage eligible organisations to request funding from IDC.

125. Mr Eric KWOK expressed his views as follows:

- (a) He said that he had been a member of the vetting group for many years and had reflected the unfairness of vetting. By saying unfair fund allocation, he was not targeting any RCs as there were genuine needs for organising major festive activities (such as Dragon Boat Race). However, he queried that vetting group had two sets of vetting criteria. One was for higher grants with fewer limitations. For instance, with regard to performances, the grants under the two sets of criteria were \$5,000 and \$10,000 respectively, with 100% difference. There was also a huge difference in the grants for coaches.
- (b) He did not understand why two different sets of vetting criteria were used and how to decide which one to be used. Ms YU Lai-fan, DC Members of the previous term, had explained that if an application was endorsed at IDC meeting, a set of more relaxed criteria would be applied. He opined that the arrangement was unfair and enquired whether the organisation needed to be established for certain years or equipped with experience of organising activities. He proposed that the vetting group should merge the two sets

vetting criteria and handle all applications in the same manner.

126. Ms Amy YUNG expressed her views as follows:

- (a) The enquiry made was based on actual figures. She said that RCs had been set up for a long time, whereas the residences of Tung Chung and Discovery Bay were relatively new. According to the presentation of fund allocation procedures just then, organisations which had applied for funds before could submit three applications per year while new organisations could only submit one per year. However, new organisations might also possess years of experience in organising activities although they had not applied for DC funds before. She enquired about the reason for such requirement.
- (b) She said that the enquiry exposed the conflict of the two sets of vetting criteria. She would carefully scrutinise the criteria concerned at the vetting group meeting later.
- (c) If a society was to be set up to organise recreational activities or ball games, registration had to be made with the Police. Her registration was rejected many years ago although she had no criminal record and had not applied for DC funds before. She tried to set up a society to organise an activity but her application was rejected by the Police without explanation. She suspected it to be a case of political censorship. She would not set up a society again to avoid conflict of interest with her duty in the vetting group.
- (d) The population had shrunk in many villages and most villagers had moved to the urban areas. At the same time, new properties, public rental housing or HOS courts were completed in rural areas. As such, there should not be only one set of criteria for assessing the development of new towns.
- (e) She pointed out that Tung Chung, with a population of 120 000, did not have a district festival while other areas received funds for organising district festivals. As such, she proposed organising district festivals with local characteristics in other new towns in order to simplify the vetting procedures. She provided the figures for the purpose of advancing the discussion to prevent IDC from following the existing practice in operation.
- (f) With regard to Mr CHAN Lin-wai's remarks that the population of Lamma

Islands exceeded 6 000, she said that Members could lodge a complaint if they queried the accuracy of the data of C&SD. She pointed out that there was a considerable number of passengers on ferries plying to and from Lamma Island or visitors of the island.

127. Ms WONG Chau-ping expressed her views as follows:

- (a) She pointed out that much fund was used for organising traditional festive activities which were Intangible Cultural Heritage supported by her and the residents.
- (b) With regard to Ms YUNG's remarks on the shrinking population in villages, she enquired if the situation of the rural areas should be ignored after a number of villagers moved to the urban areas. She proposed "urban-rural integration" and hoped that the departments concerned would take care of residents in the rural areas.
- (c) With regard to "instead of continuing to subsidise RCs which are already financially powerful" in Ms YUNG's question, she hoped that Ms YUNG would explain the meaning of "financially powerful" and on what basis or examples her statement was made.

128. Mr Ken WONG expressed his views as follows:

- (a) As Ms Amy YUNG was an accountant, he would not query the per capita data stated in her enquiry. However, he opined that population should not be the only criterion for allocation of government funds. He pointed out that Shatin District had a population of more than 600 000, but the amount of funds it was allocated was less than double the amount of Islands District and the fund per capita was less than that of Islands District. Therefore, it was evident that the situation of each district varied and hoped that Members would conduct a rational discussion.
- (b) He felt wronged by Ms YUNG's claim that RCs' allocation made up 43% of all funds for local organisations. He pointed out that starting from 2013, Peng Chau Fishermen Association Limited had ceased organising dragon boat activities. As dragon boat race was an activity with a long tradition and RC had the responsibility to promote local festive events, Peng Chau RC

reluctantly organised the activity given that there no organisation was willing to be in charge.

- (c) He disagreed that RCs were financially powerful as mentioned in Ms Amy YUNG's question and clarified that RCs lacked resources. Ever since he became the Chairman of Peng Chau RC in 2011, there had been only \$10,000 deposit in its bank account.
- (d) With regard to purchase of masks, some residents reflected that masks could be purchased at \$1.2 each in Ms Amy YUNG's constituency. However, masks were in short supply on Peng Chau. The only pharmacy there could not meet the demand of the area. As such, he sincerely asked Ms Amy YUNG for advice on mask procurement. He hoped that Members would conduct discussion objectively and encourage "urban-rural integration".
- (e) With regard to organising district festivals in Discovery Bay and Tung Chung, he advised the Member to raise the proposal at IDC meetings. He welcomed organisations organising district festive activities on behalf of RCs. Given that RCs had to organise many traditional festive activities each year, such as dragon boat race, parade of Tin Hau (i.e. district festival) and revered deity operas, etc, he hoped that Members would not draw conclusion based on population and targeted RCs.
- (f) He pointed out that population of Islands District was scattered and the situation of each area varied. As such, swimming pool was built in Tung Chung but not on Peng Chau. Or else residents of Tung Chau would have to travel to Peng Chau for swimming. He opined that the mutual goal of Members was to benefit residents of Islands District. Therefore, in consideration of transportation, activities were mostly held in Tung Chung or on Cheung Chau, rather than on Peng Chau or Lamma Island. The fact that Tung Chung and Cheung Chau were more populous was also a factor of site selection but it did not imply that residents of Peng Chau and Lamma Island could not take part in the activities. For example, if a Cantonese Opera activity was held in Central due to lack of suitable site in Islands District, residents of other districts could also take part in it.
- (g) He would not comment on issues left over from history, but opined that RCs only applied for funds for organising activities according to the existing

mechanism. IDC also welcomed applications from other organisations. He was discontented with the accusations that RCs hogged resources. He hoped that the Secretariat would clarify whether IDC had turned down applications from organisations in Tung Chung or Discovery Bay.

129. Mr WONG Chun-yeung expressed his views as follows:

- (a) He clarified that he was not insisting or preconceiving that RCs were “financially powerful” but would like to understand how resources were used. He welcomed Members sharing how funds of the Community Involvement Projects were used in order to clarify whether RCs were “financially powerful” as believed widely. He also enquired about the number of applications submitted by community organisations and the criteria for approval.
- (b) He agreed with Ms Amy YUNG that allocation of DC funds according to population was unfair. He enquired whether there were many applications for DC funds in the past to find out whether resources were fairly distributed in a more effective manner.
- (c) He did not agree with Mr Ken WONG that IDC funds should be allocated to Peng Chau where traditional festive activities were held. He said that Hau Wong Birthday was celebrated in Tung Chung and the Big Buddha was on Lantau Island. On the international level, celebrations in Disneyland and those for global festivals (such as Christmas) and Mid-Autumn Festival, etc, should also be provided with DC funds. The pre-requisite was that applications should meet the DC funding guidelines.

130. Mr LEE Ka-ho expressed his views as follows:

- (a) He believed that IDC welcomed funding applications from all eligible organisations and that the funding procedures were fair and just. He was concerned about the fairness of the vetting criteria mentioned by Mr Eric KWOK and opined that clarifications on the criteria should be provided as soon as possible so that vetting could be conducted fairly.
- (b) He would like to understand the number of applications submitted by Tung Chung organisations and ratio of funds approved just like Mr WONG Chun-yeung. As such, he could review whether the problem lay in a small

number of organisations applying or a large amount of applications being rejected so as to consider whether community organisations or the residents should be encouraged to organise activities.

131. Ms Amy YUNG expressed her views as follows:

- (a) With regard to Ms WONG Chau-ping's request for her explanation for describing RCs as "financial powerful", she said that the building in Sha Tin was well renovated which showed that the Government had taken special care of RCs. A review of the accounts would give a clear picture.
- (b) She was not requesting identical funds per capita and relevant figures were for reference only. She wished to further understand the vetting situation at the vetting group meeting and that fund allocation would be conducted based on a uniform set of criteria.
- (c) She stressed that there was a larger population in new towns and if rural areas should organise traditional festive activities, more so the new towns but residents in the rural areas were welcome to participate and conduct exchanges. In other words, every place should have its own district festival.
- (d) She said that the figures in her question were genuine and the purpose of including them was to stimulate valuable contributions. She requested the Secretariat to account for how the figures in the presentation were arrived at. She was concerned about how the Government allocated its resources and did not intend to cause division between the rural and urban areas. As a DC Member, she hoped that Islands District would keep developing.
- (e) She opined that Discovery Bay paid the most taxes and benefited the least. As the only DC Member of Discovery Bay representing over 20 000 residents, her duties were onerous, including handling of complaints and bilingual papers. Her workload was a few times of that of some other Members. As she took part in the election, she would shoulder the responsibilities and would not be calculating in the efforts made.
- (f) She requested the Secretariat to provide an English version of the vetting guide. Half of Discovery Bay residents were expatriates who could only read English. If only Chinese version was available, it would be difficult for her to explain to

the residents or recommend organisations to apply for funds. She stressed that she was not criticising any person or matter but expressing her views to IDC, hoping that more activities could be organised to benefit residents.

132. Ms WONG Chau-ping expressed her views as follows:

- (a) She reiterated that she advocated “urban-rural integration” and opined that Members present were all committed to serving the community. She appreciated that Mr FONG Lung-fei and Mr Eric KWOK worked harmoniously with Members representing RCs.
- (b) With regard to “RCs which are financially powerful” in Ms Amy YUNG’s question, it was her understanding that RCs referred to eight ex-officio Members who were the chairmen of RCs while “financially powerful” was the description for a building in Sha Tin. She was not sure whether it referred to Heung Yee Kuk Building and she clarified that the building was totally unrelated to the RCs in Islands District. She opined that senior DC Members should have raised enquiries to other Members and government departments with a sound basis. She requested Ms YUNG to explain on what basis she described RCs as “financially powerful” and what concrete examples reflected that individual RC was “financially powerful”.

133. Mr WONG Chun-yeung expressed his views as follows:

- (a) As a DC Member of Tung Chung, he agreed with Ms Amy YUNG’s view that provisions for Tung Chung should be increased and resources should be distributed based on population.
- (b) He stressed that he did not assert RCs as financially powerful because RCs so far had not disclosed the cost, profits and other financial figures of the activities sponsored with DC funds and those self-financed. He hoped that the relevant Members could reveal the relevant information.
- (c) Under the existing social atmosphere, some residents might consider IDC partial in fund allocation because of its political stance. If it was not the case, he did not mind explaining it to residents as a DC Member.

134. Mr HO Chun-fai expressed his views as follows:

- (a) With regard to the remark “RCs which are financially powerful” in Ms Amy YUNG’s question, he clarified that RCs did not have much capital and that Members present were all DC Members who did not hold any posts in Heung Yee Kuk. He did not understand why Ms YUNG mentioned the Heung Yee Kuk Building in Sha Tin and stressed that the building had nothing to do with the identity of the Members present. If the same logic was applied, Discovery Bay with residential units costing \$10 million to \$20 million each was more “financially powerful”. He strongly opposed the remarks of Ms YUNG and hoped that she would retract it.
- (b) He welcomed local organisations to apply for district festival fund and opined that less fund was allocated to Tung Chung and other areas as the organisations there did not submit applications. He hoped that IDC would resolve livelihood issues in a rational manner, discard prejudice and advance together.

135. Mr CHAN Lin-wai did not agree with Ms Amy YUNG’s saying of stimulating valuable contribution. Members representing RCs did not commit any mistakes and should not be criticised verbally. The purpose of relevant statement was to force members to reveal their stance in order to achieve certain goals, with which he was very dissatisfied.

136. Ms Josephine TSANG expressed her views as follows:

- (a) She strongly supported the proposal of organising district festival in Tung Chung. The question lay on who would be responsible for co-ordinating and organising it. She opined that each district had its characteristics and should have its own district festival. She proposed that Tung Chung DC Members should conceive and plan the details of the festival so that the characteristics of Tung Chung could be showcased. Participation of residents of other district was also welcome.
- (b) Having joined the vetting group for five years, she said that the group would only review whether applications met the criteria. It would not reject fund applications because of the political party an organisation belonged to or different political views.

137. Ms Amy YUNG expressed her views as follows:

- (a) Apart from district festival in Tung Chung raised by Ms Josephine TSANG, Discovery Bay had planned its own special festive activities. She said that she respected traditional festivals but performance with characteristics and district festivals would cater for young people better. As such, she hoped that both Discovery Bay and Tung Chung would organise their own district festival.
- (b) With regard to whether RCs were “financially powerful”, she said that it could be proven if adequate time was given for data collection.
- (c) With regard to Mr HO Chun-fai’s remarks that Discovery Bay was more “financially powerful”, she pointed out that the developers were so indeed. However, the discussion should not involve personal assets but concentrate on local groups.

138. Mr HO Chun-fai said that all district leaders present were DC Members and did not understand why Ms YUNG pointed the finger at some local organisations.

139. Ms Amy YUNG said that Mr HO Chun-fai was both a DC Member and RC chairman.

140. Mr Eric KWOK proposed not to stray too far from the topic.

141. Mr WONG Chun-yeung requested the Secretariat to brief on the reason for allocating less fund to Tung Chung organisations, the number of applications they submitted and the number of applicants in total to clarify whether the funds were unevenly distributed or less fund was allocated to the area as fewer applications were received.

142. Mr Randy YU expressed his views as follows:

- (a) He said that he was not querying Ms Amy YUNG’s qualification as an accountant. However, taking into account only the per capita data could be risky. As the saying went, “scarcity gives no cause for concern but inequality does”. For example, in order to make use of all funds allocated, Yau Tsim Mong DC used the funds to build a landmark and was made a laughing stock. He opined that bulldozing fund allocation did not necessarily benefit residents. Instead of distributing funds according to areas, allocation should be flexibly

handled by 18 Members. As queried by Mr Ken WONG, he wished to know whether there were cases of vetting group rejecting applications from Tung Chung or Discovery Bay organisations. If yes, he asked the Secretariat to provide the data to Members for perusal. If not, it meant that there were equal opportunities for all organisations.

- (b) As a member of the vetting group of the previous term of IDC, he opined that its members had been even-handed in vetting applications. As the population in Tung Chung was relatively large, applications from the area would be handled in priority and Members could flexibly approve fund applications. However, allocation of funds according to population was infeasible as Members could not represent organisations and applications had to be made by organisations. IDC played a passive role and was responsible only for approving funds. Organisations with donations to organise certain activities needed not apply for DC funds as it would be a waste of resources if funding was set aside for such organisations.
- (c) He agreed on organising district festivals in other areas with the premise that someone would take the lead. For example, Easter activities were held in Discovery Bay every year and the organiser did not apply for DC funds although it was eligible. He opined that organisers should take the initiative to apply and Members would process applications based on the funds available. If there was a short of funds, IDC could apply for additional funding. He opined that no part of Islands District had been ignored. He understood that setting up of registered organisations (for example, owners committee) was fraught with difficulties but the problem lay on lack of initiative of the organisations and the relatively small number of organisations in the community.

143. Mr Thomas LI said that regardless of whether the organisations were from Tung Chung or Discovery Bay, IDC would consider approving their applications so long as they were eligible. To his understanding, applications were seldom rejected because of the areas the organisations belonged to.

144. The Secretary responded as follows:

- (a) As mentioned by Mr Thomas LI, the vetting group rarely rejected applications from organisations unless they were ineligible or the applications did not meet

the guidelines on use of funds. In the past financial year, the vetting group had rejected only two applications. One was because the applicant was not a registered organisation and the other was because the applicant had submitted more than the number of maximum applications allowed, i.e. three times.

- (b) With regard to Ms Amy YUNG's enquiry about the charts and diagrams, she responded that the amount of allocation was calculated based on the maximum amount of allocation approved by the vetting group. The demarcation of area was not based on the place of registration of an organisation but the venue of the activities stated in the application form. The amount of funds allocated was not calculated according to population, which was different from Ms YUNG's way of calculation.
- (c) With regard to the English version of the manual and guidelines, the former was formulated by the Home Affairs Department (HAD). Its Chinese and English versions had been uploaded to the DC Members' Reference Corner on HAD's webpage. The Chinese version of Guidelines on Use of Islands District Council funds by Non-governmental Organisations (the Guidelines) had been uploaded to IDC's website, and would be translated into English later for perusal of Ms YUNG and the public.

145. Mr HO Chun-fai said that the crux of the issue lay in inadequate resources which resulted in competition for funds. IDC allocated \$10,000 to RCs for organising community activities. However, due to inadequate funding, South Lantau had to give up organising activities. He agreed that all resources available could be allocated to Tung Chung and Mui Wo for organising of lighting events as South Lantau could give up organising such events as well. He opined that IDC should seek consensus through discussion so that the goals including tourism promotion could be achieved. He hoped that Members could be candid and amenable to discussion as well as avoid division and conflicts within the Council to seek resources from the Government for use on livelihood matters.

146. Mr Ken WONG expressed his views as follows:

- (a) He clarified that there was district festival for Tung Chung Old Village. He had strived for holding the district festival ever since he took office as a DC Member. The previous term of IDC had allocated funds for organising "Parade of Tin Hau on Peng Chau". He said that IDC was not prohibited from organising district festivals at Tung Chung New Village or Discovery

Bay. IDC Members of the previous term did not take the initiative to seek resources so failure to organise such activities could not be attributed to unfair allocation of funds.

- (b) With regard to the remarks RCs applied for funds for a relative large number of activities, he explained that, as mentioned by Ms Amy YUNG, organisations found it difficult to succeed in society registration. RCs therefore applied for funding on their behalf for organising activities such as “Tsai Yao”, “July 14” and “Hoklo Ta Chiu” to avoid abolishment of those district festivals as a result of budget cut. He opined that the situation of old and new areas were different. Given that even Ms Amy YUNG could not register a society, old organisations would find it more difficult to register as societies under Section 88 of Inland Revenue Ordinance. Although RCs seemed to have applied for funding for many activities, the figures alone might not necessarily reflect the reality.
- (c) He reiterated that Peng Chau RC did not apply for funds to organise dragon boat activities from 2011 to 2015. The RC reluctantly organised the activity only because when the organiser withdrew, the residents considered the RC responsible for taking up the role as organiser. Peng Chau RC welcomed organisations which was willing to organise the said activities.

147. Mr LEUNG Kwok-ho enquired if the Secretary had made a record of order of speech of those who raised their hands.

148. The Secretary said that records had been made. However, while she was responding to enquiries, too many Members expressed their views and records could not be made in that regard.

149. Mr LEUNG Kwok-ho was dissatisfied with the order of giving speech and that of the meeting. He understood that the saying that RCs were financially powerful was not pleasing to the ear. He therefore apologised on behalf of Ms Amy YUNG to the RC chairmen present and proposed that discussion be reverted to whether there should be a system of preferential treatment and the reason for allowing groups which had submitted applications in the past to apply three times a year while new groups only once a year.

150. The Chairman said that the issue had been discussed for a long time and Ms YUNG had spoken three times so he requested her to be succinct.

151. Ms Amy YUNG said that only she could speak for herself. She would be responsible for her speech and would not retract her remarks.

152. The Chairman concluded that IDC did not selectively reject funding applications from groups, and applications from organisations across the district for funds to organise activities were welcome.

153. Mr WONG Chun-yeung moved a provisional motion on seeking additional funding from the Government in the name of IDC. Through the discussion, he understood the funding procedures and would fulfil the duty of a DC Member in the future by encouraging young people or organisations of the district to apply for fund to organise activities such as chess competition.

154. The Chairman proposed that Mr WONG Chun-yeung should submit a written motion to the Secretariat formally for detailed discussion in the future.

X. Visit arrangements to Community Involvement Projects
(Paper CACRC 13/2020)

155. The Chairman asked Members to consider endorsement of the visit arrangements and list of proposed visits set out in the paper.

156. Mr Eric KWOK said that as current DC Members were mostly newcomers, he requested the Secretariat to brief on the aim and form of visits.

157. Mr LEUNG Kwok-ho opined that Members could refer to the paper without the briefing in order to save time.

158. Members voted by a show of hands and unanimously endorsed the visit arrangements of the Community Involvement Projects.

XI. Reports by Working Groups

(i) CACRC Activities Working Group

A. Islands District Cultural Festival 2019

- (a) “Islands District Cantonese Opera Show In Celebration of the National Day” and “Islands District Cantonese Opera Show In Celebration of Lunar New Year”

“Islands District Cantonese Opera Show In Celebration of the National Day” was successfully held at the Concert Hall of Hong Kong City Hall on 9 September 2019, attracting about 1 990 spectators. In order to tie in with the response level under the Government’s “Preparedness and Response Plan for Novel Infectious Disease of Public Health Significance” (the Plan) being raised to Emergency Response Level and to avoid people from gathering, the recreational and cultural facilities under LCSD had been temporary closed. “Islands District Cantonese Opera Show In Celebration of Lunar New Year” scheduled for 3 February 2020 had also been cancelled.

- (b) “Islands District Council Presents – Golden Oldies Concert”

“Islands District Council Presents – Golden Oldies Concert” was successfully held at the Auditorium of Tsuen Wan Town Hall on 26 September 2019, attracting about 960 spectators.

- (c) “Green Promotional Game Stalls” of the Hong Kong Flower Show 2020

IDC was invited by the Hong Kong Flower Show Committee to take part in the Green Promotional Game Stalls of the Hong Kong Flower Show 2020, in order to promote green awareness and present the greening works of IDC at district level. The working group had commissioned Cheung Chau Island Women’s Association Limited to conduct relevant liaison and preparation work. However, in order to tie in with the response level under the Plan being raised to Emergency Response Level and to avoid people from gathering, the Hong Kong Flower Show 2020 scheduled for 6 to 15 March this year at Victoria Park had been cancelled.

- (d) “Crossover Lab Initiative”

IDC and West Kowloon Cultural District Authority co-organised “Crossover Lab Initiative” and commissioned “1a space” to be the organiser. However, in order to tie in with response level under the Plan being raised to Emergency Response Level and avoid people from gathering, “Crossover Lab Initiative” scheduled to be held on 15 March 2020 at Nursery Park of West Kowloon Cultural District had been temporarily postponed to a future date.

159. Mr LEUNG Kwok-ho enquired whether Cheung Chau Island Women's Association Limited was commissioned to the "Green Promotional Game Stalls" of the Hong Kong Flower Show 2020 following the past practice.

160. The Chairman said that the Liaison Officers-in-charge of IsDO was responsible for the activity and enquired if the Assistant District Officer would reply on their behalf.

161. Mr Thomas LI said that IsDO would give Mr LEUNG a reply after the meeting and Liaison Officers would be invited to the meeting if there were relevant agenda items.

(Post-meeting note: IsDO had replied to Mr LEUNG Kwok-ho after the meeting about the arrangement.)

162. Mr LEUNG Kwok-ho hoped that IsDO would give him a reply before the following meeting and said that before receiving the reply, he could not determine whether to endorse the issue or not.

163. Mr Thomas LI clarified that Members were requested to endorse the work progress report, not the commissioning of the organisation.

164. Members noted and endorsed the reports of the above working groups.

(ii) Islands District International Day of Disabled Persons Working Group

(a) Free Transportation Day for Disabled Person

The above activity was held on 10 November 2019 (Sunday). Holders of Registration Card for People with Disabilities were entitled to take public transport (including the peak tram) for free that day.

(b) Ocean Park Fun Month

The above activity was held on 3 November (Sunday) and 5 November (Tuesday) 2019. Altogether 337 holders of Registration Card for People with Disabilities and their family members and volunteers participated in the activity. The total expenses (including those for meal coupons and renting of coaches) were \$28,450.

(c) Central Celebration Ceremony

International Day of Disabled Persons 2019 opening ceremony cum “18 Districts Arts Carnival”, originally to be held at Wong Tai Sin Square on 7 December 2019 (Saturday) morning, was rescheduled due to social events. The opening ceremony was held at 1/F, Hall of the Hong Kong Council of Social Service on 3 December 2019 (Tuesday) at 3:00 p.m. “18 Districts Arts Carnival” had been cancelled.

(d) District Inclusion Activities

In 2019-2020, the working group altogether allocated \$15,485.50 to 4 local organisations for organising district inclusion activities from November 2019 to January 2020, in order to provide more opportunities for disabled persons to get in contact with the society and promote integration.

165. Members noted and endorsed the reports of the above working groups.

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

(i) Cultural Activities

(Paper CACRC 1/2020)

166. The Chairman welcomed Ms WONG Fan-ni, Jasmine, Senior Manager (New Territories South) Promotion of LCSD to the meeting to present the paper.

167. Ms Jasmine WONG briefly presented the paper. She supplemented that the activities to be organised under Tao Arts Islands – Community Arts Scheme were set out in Annex A and funding for such activities had been endorsed by IDC. However, due to the epidemic, a community hall could only accommodate 30 people at the same time according to existing regulations. If the restriction still stood in late May, the opening ceremony scheduled for May and subsequent roving performances would be postponed.

168. Members noted the contents of the paper.

(ii) Extension Activities held in Public Libraries

(Paper CACRC 2/2020)

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

170. Ms Elaine KWOK briefly presented the paper.

171. Members noted the paper.

(iii) Sports and Recreational Activities
(Paper CACRC 3/2020)

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

173. Ms Cherry CHAN briefly presented the paper.

174. Ms Amy YUNG pointed out that two weeks ago, LCSD had reported at the IDC meeting on the contents and enrolment situation of relevant activities. The current report was about activities to be organised by LCSD in the coming three months. In response to the remarks that IDC meetings were too lengthy, she proposed that LCSD should merge the relevant reports to cover past and future activities and give a briefing at either IDC or CACRC meeting in order to save time and allow a more focused discussion.

175. The Chairman considered the proposal of Ms Amy YUNG a good one.

176. Mr WONG Chun-yeung pointed out that LCSD cancelled 131 recreational and sports activities and about 4 200 people were affected. He proposed recording the personal particulars of the people affected and allowing them to participate in similar activities in the following season in priority to placate them.

177. Ms Cherry CHAN thanked Mr WONG Chun-yeung for his proposal. She explained that application for most activities had not yet begun and the figure of people affected was the original quota. For the few activities which had already begun, LCSD would endeavour to arrange postponement or cancel some of the classes.

178. Mr LEE Ka-ho said that some library activities had very few participants. For example, there were 11 Library Visits and User Education Sessions in September 2019 and the number of participants was only 22, i.e. only 2 participants per activity on average. He enquired whether LCSD had regularly reviewed the effectiveness of the activities and endeavoured to attract more participants. Or else, submission of reports would only be a routine which was meaningless.

179. Mr WONG Chun-yeung hoped that LCSD would provide through email to Members detailed information of the activities affected so that Members could assist residents who wish to participate to fill in application forms.

(Post-meeting note: Mr WONG had been informed that LCSD would contact the participants affected about postponement of the activities or refund arrangements.)

180. Ms Elaine KWOK responded as follows:

- (a) She thanked Mr LEE Ka-ho for his concern on library activities. There was a review mechanism for activities funded by both IDC or organised public libraries at their own expenses. For example, questionnaire would be distributed to participants after the activities to garner opinions on the form of the activity as well as performance of the organisers or speakers. In addition, the Librarian would make assessment at the end of the activity to reflect the activity's effectiveness and performance of the lecturer. These routine review procedures could ensure proper use of resources.
- (b) The User Education Sessions held in September in Tung Chung were regular library activities conducted in small groups. The Librarian would brief readers on how to navigate the catalogue and use electronic books and resources. In addition, LCSD would from time to time conduct outreach activities to schools in the district for promotion and invite school librarians to meetings to step up promotion of library services. LCSD would step up promotion on diversified activities such as appealing to Members to assist in promotion to encourage public participation.

181. Ms Amy YUNG requested Chairman of CACRC and IDC to consider merging the two reports which could save the representatives of LCSD from attending both meetings.

182. The Chairman proposed to vote immediately.

183. Mr Randy YU said that he was aware that the nature of the two reports was different. One was about fund allocation and the other was about programmes and number of participants. He thus enquired if it was necessary for the representatives of LCSD to report at two meetings separately. He adopted an open attitude towards the proposal.

184. Ms Elaine KWOK adopted an open attitude towards merging of the two papers on library operation and welcomed relevant arrangement.

185. Ms Cherry CHAN said that merging of the two papers on recreational and sports activities could save time for handling other matters. She welcomed and agreed with the proposal.

186. The Chairman said that the relevant arrangement was approved.

(Post-meeting note: LCSD discussed with the Secretariat after the meeting and proposed submitting regular papers and work reports to CACRC three times a year. Funding applications would be discussed at CACRC meetings at the beginning of the year alongside the work report of LCSD so as to streamline the meeting procedures.)

XIII. Any Other Business

(i) Manual on the Use of District Council Funds

187. The Chairman said that HAD had amended the Manual on the Use of District Council Funds (the Manual) in January 2020 and the Manual was tabled for Members' perusal. There were six major amendments, including:

- (a) The NGO, its co-organiser(s), members and staff should avoid engaging in activities which might result in actual or perceived conflict of interest (for example, a project staff member procuring goods/services or inviting quotations for the project from a company of his own or his immediate family) arising from their involvement in the approved project. They should declare any interest during procurement of goods and services, recruitment and other processes in managing projects (for example, ticket allocation, adjudicating at competitions) which might involve financial or personal interests.
- (b) Newly included permissible items were expenses for implementing waste reduction measures, tariffs for the playing of copyright works, and premium and premium levy for public liability insurance and accident insurance.

- (c) Prices of purchase of beverages/light refreshments, light meals, souvenirs or gift of a token nature, prizes and sports uniform were subject to adjustment with reference to the movement of the Composite Consumer Price Index.
- (d) The unit cost of capitalised item should not exceed \$200,000.
- (e) Grantees were suggested to make reference to the “Waste Reduction Guidebook for Large Scale Event Organisers (the Guidebook)” which assisted event organisers and other relevant stakeholders in formulating waste management strategies to minimise waste generation and to save useful resources as much as possible for reuse, recycling or upcycling.
- (f) The Authorised Person, Designated Officer-in-charge of the project and other responsible officers of the grantee organisation had to declare on the record of quotation that he or she had read and understood the contents of the Manual on the Use of DC Funds and the terms and conditions of the grant and thereby agree to observe the provisions contained in the aforesaid documents.

Other amendments, such as textual changes, were listed in the amended Manual. If Members did not have any opinions, the Secretariat would update the Guidelines according to the amended contents of the Manual and submit the Guidelines to IDC for consideration and endorsement. It was endorsed at the IDC meeting on 6 January 2020 that the existing Guidelines would continue to be applied to vet and process funding applications until the new guidelines were formulated.

188. Members unanimously endorsed amendments to the Manual and agreed that the Secretariat should update the Guidelines according to the amended contents of the Manual.

XIV. Date of Next Meeting

189. There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m. The next meeting would be held at 10:30 a.m. on 4 May 2020 (Monday).

- End -