

(Translation)

Islands District Council
Minutes of Meeting of
Tourism, Agriculture, Fisheries, Environmental Hygiene
and Climate Change Committee

Date : 25 July 2022 (Monday)

Time : 2:00 p.m.

Venue : Islands District Council Conference Room,
14/F, Harbour Building, 38 Pier Road, Central, Hong Kong

Present

Mr HO Siu-kei (Chairman)

Mr CHAN Lin-wai, MH (Vice-Chairman)

Mr YU Hon-kwan, Randy, MH, JP

Mr WONG Man-hon, MH

Mr CHOW Yuk-tong, SBS, MH

Mr YUNG Chi-ming, BBS, MH

Mr HO Chun-fai

(Arrived at around 2:10 p.m.)

Mr KWOK Ping, Eric

Mr FONG Lung-fei

Ms LAU Shun-ting

Attendance by Invitation

Ms CHAN Yuen-man, Stephy

Acting Senior Environmental Protection Officer (Strategic
Facilities Development and Planning)1,
Environmental Protection Department

Mr NG Chung-man, Desmond

Executive Director, AECOM Asia Company Limited

In Attendance

Mr LI Ho, Thomas

Assistant District Officer (Islands)1, Islands District Office

Ms WONG Ka-ming, Grace

Assistant District Officer (Islands)2, Islands District Office

Mr CHAN Chak-chung

Senior Inspector of Works, Islands District Office

Mr HUI Kar-nung

District Environmental Hygiene Superintendent (Islands),
Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Mr TSANG Wai-man

Administrative Assistant/Lands (District Lands Office,
Islands), Lands Department

Mr PEI Nien-jen, Gordon

Senior Engineer/6 (Lantau),
Civil Engineering and Development Department

Mr YAU Pak-lun, Esmond

Senior Environmental Protection Officer (Regional South)5,
Environmental Protection Department

Ms FUNG Sin-ye, Mini

Senior Transport Officer/Islands 2, Transport Department

Mr TANG Wing-kai, Ricky

Fisheries Officer (Enforcement)1,
Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Mr HO Lee-yip

Manager District Relation,

Ms YUEN Suk-ling, Sylvia

New Lantao Bus Company (1973) Limited

Representative, Sun Ferry Services Company Limited

Secretary

Ms NG Ching-sum, Rain

Executive Officer (District Council)2, Islands District Office

Absent with Apology

Mr WONG Hon-kuen, Ken

Ms WONG Chau-ping

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Welcoming remarks

The Chairman welcomed representatives of government departments, organisations and Members to the meeting, and introduced Mr HUI Kar-nung, District Environmental Hygiene Superintendent (Islands) of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD), who succeeded Ms LAI Wing-sau, Winsy.

2. Members noted that Mr Ken WONG and Ms WONG Chau-ping were unable to attend the meeting due to other commitments.

I. **Confirmation of minutes of the meeting held on 30 May 2022**

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

4. Members had no other amendment proposals. The captioned minutes were endorsed unanimously.

(Mr HO Chun-fai arrived the meeting at around 2:10 p.m.)

II. **Project Progress of Integrated Waste Management Facilities Phase 1**
(Paper TAFEHCCC 29/2022)

5. The Chairman welcomed Ms CHAN Yuen-man, Stephy, Acting Senior Environmental Protection Officer (Strategic Facilities Development and Planning)1 of the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) and Mr NG Chung-man, Desmond, Executive Director of the AECOM Asia Company Limited to the meeting to present the paper.

6. Mr Desmond NG briefly presented the paper with the aid of PowerPoint presentation.

7. Ms Stephy CHAN said that the EPD reported the detailed environmental monitoring data to Members every three months at present. To avoid a lengthy meeting, she suggested skipping the verbal report on environmental monitoring.

8. Mr Randy YU said that the periodic reports of the EPD were exhaustive. If there was no abnormality in the monitoring data, Members could peruse the report on their own.

9. Ms LAU Shun-ting requested the EPD to provide Members with the PowerPoint slides after the meeting.

10. Ms Stephy CHAN noted the Members' requests.

(Post-meeting note: The PowerPoint slides were uploaded to the web page of the Islands District Council (IDC).)

11. Mr Eric KWOK hoped that the EPD could brief Members on the key points of the environmental monitoring, as the periodic report mainly set out the figures. In addition, the report only recorded the number of finless porpoise occurrences but did not mention the death toll of Chinese white dolphins and finless porpoises. He enquired of the EPD whether the monitoring was carried out in accordance with the Environmental Impact Assessment Ordinance (EIAO).

12. Mr YUNG Chi-ming said that the EPD had just reported on the project progress, but he was more concerned about the facilities that the EPD had promised to build for the residents. Residents of the Islands District had objections to the construction of the incinerator at Shek Kwu Chau at first. However, after repeated discussions, the residents finally agreed to the construction of the incinerator as the EPD committed to building facilities for the benefit of the community in the future. He said that the EPD had promised to provide ferry service to facilitate residents and tourists' travels from Cheung Chau to Shek Kwu Chau for visiting the incinerator and using the heated swimming pool. Over the years, he had been introducing the ancillary facilities to residents to solicit support for the construction of the incinerator, but now he found that the commitments had not been honoured. It was difficult for him to give an account to the residents. He urged the EPD to follow up on the commitments made on the over 20 requests.

13. The Chairman asked the EPD to skip information that was too technical and focus on environmental and ecological monitoring as well as the latest progress of the facilities that were committed.

14. Ms Stephy CHAN made a consolidated response as follows:

(a) The EPD's purposes of attending this meeting were: (i) to make a

periodic report on the project progress to Members and to arrange for the consultant to explain the works progress in detail; and (ii) to respond to and follow up on the requests of the IDC, including the views expressed by Members through other channels and the matters on which the EPD had promised to follow up during discussions with other departments and the IDC.

- (b) The EPD had not identified any abnormalities in the periodic environmental monitoring report. The report reflected the actual situation in detail. The EPD would continue to conduct the monitoring and analyse the relevant data in accordance with the EIAO, including continuous monitoring the number of finless porpoise occurrences and reflecting the results in the environmental monitoring and audit reports, with both the peak and off-peak seasons of finless porpoise occurrences covered.

15. Mr HO Chun-fai said that residents of the Islands District had objections to the construction of the incinerator at Shek Kwu Chau at first, but they compromised and rendered support to the project in the end as the EPD promised the construction of certain compensatory facilities in the district, such as the improvement to the pier facilities. However, the facilities that the EPD was building for the project, including air quality monitoring stations and the information centre, were only part of the work and the basic responsibilities of serving the community. No compensation was made to the residents of the Islands District. He hoped that the new Government would strive for the well-being of the residents and honour the commitments that it had made.

16. Mr Randy YU thanked the consultant for the detailed explanation and expressed his views as follows:

- (a) He said that obnoxious facilities were never welcomed in the vicinity of residential buildings. He had travelled to Singapore with other community leaders to visit the local incineration facilities many years ago. After the trip, the participants had in-depth discussions with the then Environment Bureau and the EPD in the spirit of “sacrificing themselves for the interest of the public”, and were promised that compensation would be made to the affected community. Back then, the Tuen Mun District Council submitted a wish list to the Government with regard to the sludge treatment facility to be built in the district, and half of the 12 requests raised were fulfilled. As a result, the EPD said that it would also try its best to meet the over 20 requests put forward by the Islands District. However, the EPD had only addressed two or three of the requests so far. The situation was disappointing.
- (b) He had suggested to the EPD on many occasions that the chimney design should be improved to make the sail shape face South Lantau, so that the facility would not look like a joss stick. However, he

expressed disappointment that the EPD insisted on having the side of the sail shape facing the sea. He hoped the EPD would rotate the chimney by 90 to 120 degrees horizontally so that residents of South Lantau could see the shape of a sail with peace of mind.

- (c) He clarified that the spa facilities and the heated swimming pool were not among the over 20 requests put forward by the IDC. At that time, the EPD was building a free spa centre at the sludge treatment facility T•PARK in Tuen Mun. It therefore proposed to the IDC to improve the pier facilities in South Lantau, so that it would be easier for the residents to visit the artificial island in the future to learn about the processing of municipal solid waste and the facility's benefits to the environment, and enjoy the spa facilities or the natural landscape on the island, etc. Earlier, the report of a study on the traffic capacity of Lantau mentioned that the Government was going to build new pier facilities in South Lantau. The project would facilitate the residents and tourists' visits to enjoy the facilities above and the landscape, but regrettably, the construction of the spa facilities ended up with nothing definite. At the previous meetings, the EPD had been evasive about the facilities that it had proposed to build of its own accord. He said that the Shek Kwu Chau incinerator was of a larger scale than the sludge treatment facility in Nim Wan. He hoped that the EPD would realise the vision that it had promised.
- (d) Although the EPD sent representatives to the meeting to report the project's progress to Members periodically, it had not responded directly to Members' requests. In this connection, he requested that the representatives of the EPD relayed Members' requests to the Secretary for Environment and Ecology after the meeting. He also invited senior officials of the Environment and Ecology Bureau (EEB) to meet with Members within a month to further discuss Members' requests in relation to the project. As the project had entered the stage of foundation formation and the foundation works for the chimney had commenced, there would be no room to save the situation if the orientation of the chimney was not changed immediately. He urged the EEB to address the over 20 requests seriously and build the spa facilities.

17. The Chairman invited Members to express their views and discuss the follow-up arrangements.

18. Mr Eric KWOK expressed his views as follows:

- (a) He requested that the EPD to provide data of finless porpoise occurrences at night in the waters near Shek Kwu Chau. He quoted from a monitoring report of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) in 2021, saying that the number of finless porpoises and Chinese white dolphins had decreased by 80%

over the past 17 years. In addition, more than half of the cetaceans had a lifespan shorter than two years. On 22 April 2021, the Hong Kong Ocean Park Conservation Foundation received a report that two dead finless porpoises were found in the sea off Shek Kwu Chau. Throughout the year, around 20 cetacean carcasses were found. Therefore, he believed that they might be associated with the impact imposed from the construction of the incinerator.

- (b) He had once conducted a visit with a green group in the waters near Shek Kwu Chau at his own expense. There used to be Chinese white dolphin occurrences in the waters off Tai A Chau and Siu A Chau from time to time. However, after China Light and Power Company Limited built a liquefied natural gas receiving terminal at Tai A Chau and the construction of the Shek Kwu Chau incinerator commenced, Chinese white dolphins virtually disappeared. He enquired whether the EPD had stepped up relevant measures to protect the habitat of finless porpoises and Chinese white dolphins.
- (c) The EPD should avoid using piling technology to build the foundation in order to reduce the noise under the sea and avoid causing nuisance to finless porpoises in the waters nearby or the Chinese white dolphins in the vicinity of Fan Lau Kok. He enquired of the EPD what mitigation measures had been taken to reduce construction noise nuisance and how the construction vessels travelling in the area were monitored.
- (d) He said that very few members of the public had visited the information office in South Lantau. He suggested that the EPD should consider arranging talks to share information about waste to energy, waste separation and crisis management with residents. In addition, residents all wanted to know more about matters that were closely related to their lives, for example, how the EPD deal with the highly contaminated soil of the incinerator, whether dioxins emitted by the incinerator would cause air pollution, and the progress of the air quality monitoring stations. Finally, he hoped that the electricity generated by the incinerator from waste to energy could be supplied to Lantau Island to save the residents on electricity costs.

19. The Chairman said that if the EPD was unable to respond to Members' requests at the meeting, Members would invite senior official(s) of the EPD for a meeting in order to address the issues put forward by Members. In this connection, he invited Members to vote by a show of hands on the proposal above.

20. Members voted by a show of hands. There were nine votes in favour and the above proposal was endorsed.

(Members who voted in favour included: the Chairman Mr HO Siu-kei, Mr Randy YU, Mr WONG Man-hon, Mr CHOW Yuk-tong, Mr YUNG Chi-ming, Mr CHAN

Lin-wai, Mr HO Chun-fai, Mr Eric KWOK and Mr FONG Lung-fei. Ms LAU Shun-ting left the meeting temporarily.)

21. Mr Randy YU said that if the representatives of the EPD could relay Members' views to the senior official(s) after the meeting and make a response on the over 20 requests and the facilities that the EPD had promised to build within a month, there would be no need to follow up by correspondence.

22. Ms Stepby CHAN emphasised that the EPD had always attached great importance to Members' views and had actively followed up on them. After learning at the previous meeting that Members wanted to know the progress of the over 20 requests, the EPD immediately collated the relevant information to make a report at this meeting. In addition, the EPD relayed Members' views to the departments concerned. She said for most of the over 20 requests, either a solution had been found or the relevant works had commenced. For some of the requests that involved matters under the purview of other departments, the EPD would also report the latest progress to Members in a timely manner.

23. The Chairman enquired of the EPD how to explain the operation of the incinerator to the residents and address their concerns on the project's impact on the environment and health.

24. Ms Stepby CHAN responded that the project contractor had produced a booklet containing environmental protection information for distribution to residents through the community liaison group. Members were welcomed to express their opinions on the booklet to the EPD. In addition, the project contractor had planned to hold activities at the information offices in Cheung Chau and South Lantau and invite schools and organisations to participate. However, promotional talks and workshops could not be held as scheduled due to the epidemic situation and social distancing measures.

25. The Chairman requested the EPD to respond on the over 20 requests and the mitigation measures for reducing noise from the works.

26. Mr Desmond NG responded that when the consultant conducted the study on the incinerator project, the habitat of the mammals (including finless porpoises) within the waters concerned in the environmental impact assessment had been studied. The environment permit also explicitly stated that percussive piling underwater was prohibited. The contractor had to comply with the requirement, otherwise it would be an offence. As the contractor used the deep cement mixing method for the construction of seawalls during the reclamation, no underwater percussive piling had been carried out. As for the land-based works, all works were regulated under the Noise Control Ordinance to ensure that residents nearby would not be affected.

27. Ms Stepby CHAN presented the progress of the following 24 requests and matters of concern:

- (a) Item 1: The establishment of information offices or community liaison centres

The contractor had set up two information offices at the South Lantau and Cheung Chau Rural Committees respectively and had formed a community liaison group. Public could make enquiries through the 24-hour hotline or email. In addition, the contractor would visit local groups to present the project progress and understand their concerns.

- (b) Item 2: The provision of environmental monitoring data to residents

Apart from uploading the relevant data to the designated web pages of the projects regularly, the EPD would also report and provide the environmental monitoring data to the members of the community liaison group and the IDC.

- (c) Item 3: The exterior design of I-PARK1

The design of I-PARK1 embraced the environmental philosophy of “Green, Clean and Lean” in order to blend in with the surrounding environment in harmony.

- (d) Item 4: Priority to residents of South Lantau and Cheung Chau in recruitment for the project facilities

The contractor had recruited local residents to work as community liaison officers at the information offices in South Lantau and Cheung Chau. Moreover, staff working on the artificial island ordered lunch from restaurants on Cheung Chau and South Lantau regularly. In the recruitment for different positions at the construction site, priority would also be given to residents of South Lantau and Cheung Chau. The contractor had held recruitment events at the venue of the Cheung Chau Rural Committee and placed job advertisements on Cheung Chau to recruit the residents.

- (e) Item 5: Water quality monitoring in the waters near Pui O and Tai Long Wan

As required by the environment permit of the project, the EPD had to conduct routine environmental monitoring, including water quality monitoring at Pui O, Lower Cheung Sha, Tai Long Wan, Yi Long Wan, Cheung Chau Tung Wan and the Cheung Sha Wan Fish Culture Zone. In addition, the EPD would conduct regular water quality monitoring for the beaches and sea water in the vicinity of South Lantau and Cheung Chau.

- (f) Item 6: The provision of kaito ferry service between Tai Long Tsuen and Cheung Chau

The Transport Department (TD) would gazette on a regular basis to invite interested parties to apply for the grant of licences for operating kaito ferry services. If any application for operating ferry service between Tai Long Tsuen and Cheung Chau was received, the TD would process it in a timely manner. In addition, in order to facilitate

residents' travel on festive days, the project contractor provided kaito ferry service six times in 2019 for residents of Tai Long Tsuen to travel to and from Central or Cheung Chau. If Tai Long Tsuen residents wanted the above kaito ferry service to be provided on any particular festive day in the future, they could make a request to the contractor. The contractor would try its best to coordinate and arrange for the relevant services according to the actual circumstances.

(g) Item 7: Residents' concerns about the construction vessels' impact on marine traffic around Cheung Chau during construction

The contractor had formed a marine management liaison group, which consisted of not only representatives of the project contractor, the consultant and the EPD, but also those of the Marine Department, the Fire Services Department, the Marine Region of the Hong Kong Police Force and the ferry companies. The purpose of the group was to coordinate the marine traffic arrangements during the construction of the project and after it was put into operation, as well as the contingency measures for thunderstorms and extreme weather. The group would hold meetings and update the contingency response plan regularly to ensure the safety of marine traffic.

(h) Item 8: Air quality control and the installation of air quality monitoring stations

Air quality monitoring would be conducted at three tiers: (i) The first tier of monitoring was conducted at the chimney stack, which was the most important and effective. Emissions from the chimney would be monitored immediately to see whether they met the relevant standards. If the concentration of pollutants was found to reach the alert level, the contractor would immediately stop feeding waste into the incinerator, and studies and investigations would be carried out. Operation would not be resumed until the problem examination and rehabilitation were completed. (ii) The second tier of monitoring included the air monitoring station on Shek Kwu Chau which was 300 metres away from the facility and the air monitoring stations on Cheung Chau and South Lantau respectively. The EPD would conduct regional air monitoring with the three air monitoring stations mentioned above. If the air quality measured by the air monitoring stations remained at a normal level, it indicated that the incinerator was operating normally. (iii) The EPD had also set up an air quality monitoring network across the territory, which served as the third tier of monitoring. The EPD understood that residents of certain districts might be concerned that the air quality would be affected. Therefore, it was looking into the mobile air quality monitoring service with the consultant. The I-PARK1 project was expected to have testing and commissioning in 2024 and come into service in 2025. The contractor would complete the installation of the above Shek Kwu Chau, Cheung Chau and South Lantau air monitoring stations one year before the testing and commissioning (i.e. in 2023). The contractor had commenced

detailed discussions with the stakeholders of the sites concerned on the specific location and detailed design of the three air monitoring stations.

(i) Item 9: The arrangement of excursion ferry service between Shek Kwu Chau and Cheung Chau to promote tourism

The contractor planned to arrange three guided tours daily after the facility was commissioned. The EPD was actively considering making Cheung Chau one of the access points to I-PARK1.

(j) Item 10: Villagers' concerns about feng shui

In 2018, the EPD received an application for a Tun Fu ceremony from the South Lantau Rural Committee and referred it to the District Lands Office, Islands (DLO, Is) for follow-up. In April 2020, the South Lantau Rural Committee served a joint notification to the DLO, Is, stating that it hoped to consolidate the applications of the 14 villages into one single application. Subsequently, the DLO, Is held a number of meetings with the representatives of the South Lantau Rural Committee and replied in October 2020 that it had noted the application. It was learned that the DLO, Is had not yet received the collated information and would continue to follow up on the relevant application.

(Post-meeting note: The DLO, Is said that it would continue to maintain communication with the South Lantau Rural Committee on the matter.)

(k) Item 11: The request for the construction of Cheung Chau Community Hall

The construction of the Community Hall-cum-Home Affairs Enquiry Centre in Cheung Chau had already commenced in 2021.

(l) Item 12: The beautification of the environment in Cheung Chau and the improvement of the pier facilities

The improvement works for the gateway of Cheung Chau Pier commenced in 2014 and were completed in 2015. She quoted what Mr LI Ping-wai, Anthony, the then District Officer (Islands), had said when attending the first meeting of the EPD's Environmental Planning and Management of Waste Facilities – Islands Community Liaison Group, "The reconstruction of the gateway of Cheung Chau pier would be impossible without the active assistance of the Environment Bureau and the EPD. The gateway has been built with an innovative design." In addition, the Civil Engineering and Development Department (CEDD) had consulted the IDC on the re-provisioning of the Cheung Chau Ferry Pier in April 2021 and the project was endorsed. As for the proposals on neighbourhood service, Members could submit them to the Islands District Office (IsDO). If the services were under the purview of the EPD, the EPD would be willing to provide assistance.

(m) Item 13: The increase of frequency of ferry service between Cheung Chau and Central

In accordance with the latest operating licence issued by the Government on 1 April 2021, the Sun Ferry Services Company Limited provided an extra ferry trip from Cheung Chau to Central at 4:30 p.m. and another extra ferry trip from Central to Cheung Chau at 6:30 p.m. from Monday to Friday. As informed by TD, TD would closely monitor the ferry service between Cheung Chau and Central. If the patronage during any particular time slot increased, TD would discuss the feasibility of frequency improvement with the ferry company, including the provision of extra ferry trips when the manpower and vessel deployment would be allowed.

(n) Item 14: The improvement of the mobile phone network and telecommunications facilities of Tai Long Tsuen and the laying of fibre-based networks for Cheung Chau to enhance telecommunications services

The Government put forward in the 2017 Policy Address a subsidy scheme to extend fibre-based networks to the villages in remote areas. The EPD had written to the Office of the Communications Authority in 2018 to convey the request from the residents in South Lantau and Cheung Chau on telecommunications facilities. As far as the EPD was aware, the relevant works had been carried out in phases since August 2020. Areas covered in the scheme would include Shap Long Tsuen, Tai Long Tsuen and Mong Tung Wan in South Lantau as well as Cheung Chau.

(o) Item 15: The monitoring of water quality of the mains water supply at Tai Long Tsuen

The FEHD had been conducting water quality monitoring for Tai Long Tsuen regularly, including the collection of specimens from residences directly.

(p) Item 16: Fresh water supply for Tai Long Tsuen

Over the years, the EPD had been requesting the Water Supplies Department (WSD) to lay fresh water pipes in Tai Long Tsuen to connect to the main water supply system nearby. The WSD informed the EPD that the works had officially commenced in 2021, and were expected to be completed in around 2023.

(q) Item 17: The South Lantau Sewerage System Works

In the first phase of the South Lantau Sewerage System Works, it was planned that secondary sewage treatment works would be built at San Shek Wan and village sewerage works would be built at Lo Uk Tsuen, Pui O. The works commenced in 2021 and were expected to be completed in 2026. As for the second phase of the South Lantau Sewerage System Works and other sewerage system works, the EPD

was taking forward the planning in phases. The Government would look for resources for the works projects, so as to implement them gradually as soon as possible.

(r) Item 18: The improvement of the transport infrastructure of South Lantau

The EPD learned that the departments concerned had reported to the IDC the latest progress of the relevant infrastructure (including the piers and roads). The TD had carried out a number of improvement works such as road widening on South Lantau Road and Keung Shan Road. The CEDD had completed the Study on Traffic, Transport and Capacity to Receive Visitors for Lantau. Apart from road improvement works, the report also included proposals on waterborne transport. The CEDD had also commenced a project titled “Initiatives for South Lantau Eco-Recreation Corridor - Investigation”. The investigation would include a review of the need to build new pier facilities on the South Lantau Coast, proposals on site selection and a feasibility assessment. It was expected to be completed by the end of 2023.

(s) Item 19: The distribution of allowance to affected fishermen

The Government had established an inter-departmental working group consisting of members from the Lands Department (LandsD), the AFCD, the Marine Department, etc. in 2019 to handle the registration of ex-gratia allowance applications by fishermen (with vessels exceeding 15 metres in length, commonly known as “big vessels”) affected by the relevant marine works in Hong Kong waters. The registration of applications was open in 2021 and the working group was currently conducting the vetting work.

(t) Item 20: The review of the licensing mechanism of marine park fishing permits

The EPD was required to set up a marine park for the I-PARK1 project in accordance with the compensation plan. The marine park would be combined with the proposed Soko Islands Marine Park nearby into one park with an area exceeding 2 000 hectares. The marine park had been gazetted and had come into effect this year. In addition, the Marine Parks and Marine Reserves (Amendment) Regulation 2019 of the AFCD came into effect on 1 April 2020 for the implementation of the new fisheries management strategy for marine parks, and a transitional period of two years was provided for fishermen to adapt to the new strategy.

(u) Item 21: The strengthening of management and enforcement for marine parks

The AFCD had consolidated internal resources to form a dedicated team responsible for enforcement at sea in August 2020, and used the real-time satellite automatic identification system to help identify

fishing vessels that engaged in illegal fishing. In addition, the AFCD worked with fishermen associations to gather intelligence regarding illegal fishing from time to time to take targeted enforcement actions. The AFCD also conducted joint enforcement operations with the Mainland enforcement agencies from time to time. On the other hand, the AFCD and the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department were working together to study the utilisation of a video analysis system for monitoring the South Lantau Marine Park, in a hope that patrols and enforcement operations could be deployed more precisely with the employment of technologies.

- (v) Item 22: Cooperation between the Government and fishermen, e.g. inviting fishermen to engage in publicity, education and refuse removal programmes, and allowing fishing vessels to run eco-guided tours, recreational fishing and other business to alleviate fishermen's pressures of livelihood

The AFCD said that it would strengthen publicity, education and marine refuse removal work after the above South Lantau Marine Park was gazetted and came into effect. Fishermen's applications to be employees or a service provider under the publicity, education and marine refuse removal programmes were welcomed by the AFCD. In addition, the Sustainable Fisheries Development Fund of the AFCD would, apart from supporting projects related to recreational fishing, look into the implementation of pilot projects on the operation of recreational fishing under the existing laws and regulations and conduct relevant studies.

- (w) Item 23: Follow-up on the applications for building village houses in Tai A Chau and Siu A Chau

Some villagers were worried that it might be difficult for the applications to be approved because the locations concerned were close to the new marine park. The EPD had made enquiries to the AFCD and the LandsD regarding an individual application. It was understood that considering the location and its surroundings were covered by trees, and there was no obvious existing access road connecting the location of the proposed village house and the pier. The AFCD therefore requested the applicant submit supplementary information for its further consideration, but no reply had yet been received.

(Post-meeting note: The DLO, Is would contact the applicants concerned and ask them to submit supplementary information for the AFCD's further consideration.)

- (x) Item 24: The inclusion of the environmental promotion and education facilities of I-PARK1 into the Sustainable Lantau Blueprint

The EPD thanked Members for the proposal, and said that it would be

conducive to the promotion of eco-tourism in South Lantau if the environmental education facilities provided in the I-PARK1 project were included in the blueprint. The EPD would continue to communicate with the Sustainable Lantau Office of the CEDD, and investigate to organise eco-tours and visits to the facility after I-PARK1 was commenced, for the purpose of public education. The visiting routes would also be reviewed in a timely manner.

28. Ms Stephy CHAN continued her presentation of other suggestions and requests:

(a) Electricity charges subsidy

Under the current policy, the electricity generated by waste-to-energy facilities (including the T-PARK and the O-PARK1) under the management of the Government would be supplied to the facilities at the same location or government buildings and facilities nearby first, and the surplus electricity, if any, would be sold to the power company with the proceeds channelled to the Government's Treasury.

(b) The request for the Planning Department to review the outline zoning plan

The Planning Department said that "Village Type Development" zones were included in the land use classification in the outline zoning plan. Indigenous residents who wanted to build a house could make an application accordingly.

(c) The change of boundaries of villages in South Lantau to promote ecological conservation

The EPD had made an enquiry to the LandsD, but had not yet received the updated information.

(Post-meeting note: The DLO, Is notified the EPD in early August this year that it had not received any application from the village representatives for changing the boundaries of the villages in South Lantau.)

(d) Spa facilities

The provision of spa facilities was a preliminary concept raised by the EPD when it planned for the project at an early stage. The project would be constructed on a reclaimed artificial island that provided limited space. As shown in the architectural model, the main facility of the project had taken up most of the space on the artificial island. Therefore, it was difficult to build any large-scale spa facilities in terms of technology and overall layout. According to the latest design submitted by the contractor, other recreational and environmental education facilities would be provided on the artificial island.

29. Ms Stephy CHAN briefly introduced the recreational and environmental

education facilities of I-PARK1 with the aid of PowerPoint presentation. Participants of the guided tours would take the excursion ferry to I-PARK1 from Central or Cheung Chau. After disembarking, visitors would walk past the visitor pavilion and could take a sightseeing bus directly to the administration building. Recreation and environmental education facilities such as an observation deck, a visitor park, a sky garden and a viewing gallery would also be provided in the project. Along the tour, visitors could enjoy the breathtaking landscape of the sky, the sea, and mountains blending together, with the natural beauty of Hong Kong in front and the islands of the Motherland in the distance. Glass would be adopted in the design of the viewing gallery as much as possible, so that visitors could clearly observe the operation of the major facilities. The EPD would give a detailed presentation on these recreation and environmental facilities to Members in due course.

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

- (a) Villagers in South Lantau had always been concerned about the feng shui problems brought by the project. After the construction of the incinerator commenced, villagers had been constantly communicating with the DLO, Is and a consensus was reached consequently. He said that he would continue to monitor the development of the situation closely.
- (b) The EPD set up a marine park at Soko Islands and the water course between Tai A Chau and Siu A Chau was included in the park area. This would not only affect the spring and autumn ancestral worship ceremonies performed by the indigenous residents every year, but also cause inconvenience to the fishermen and tourists who went to the two islands for fishing as they would have to make a detour to arrive at the piers. He had expressed his views to the departments concerned, but the gazetted area of the marine park in April 2022 still covered Tai A Chau and Siu A Chau. He said that fishermen were concerned about whether they had to apply for a permit for fishing activities in the waters concerned. He would write to the relevant departments to request follow-ups.
- (c) The Government had invested a lot of resources to develop the facilities on the artificial island, but the residents of South Lantau could not benefit from the project. He requested the EPD to follow up on the commitment of building a cycling track in the South Lantau.

31. Mr Randy YU expressed his views as follows:

- (a) He thanked the EPD for the detailed response, but it had placed the emphasis wrongly. The EPD should have focused on the progress of the over 20 matters of concern or request that the stakeholders were most concerned about, rather than the detailed engineering and technical information. He suggested that the EPD should join the community liaison group and should not leave the leading role at the

regular meetings to the contractor. He suggested that the government departments should take the lead in the community liaison group which used to be in charge of the contractor and meetings should be held every three to six months to report on the progress of the projects. He also urged the representatives of the EPD to relay Members' views to senior officials after the meeting.

- (b) He said the report that the EPD had just made on the over 20 matters of concern or request was incomplete. For example, Members had queried the monitoring carried out by the EPD, but it failed to respond in this regard. Regarding the feng shui issue, the Tun Fu ceremony performed for villagers was only a remedial measure and it was what EPD should do. He emphasised that the EPD had never responded to the feasibility of changing the structural orientation of the "sail" form with regard to the adverse impact on feng shui and landscape brought by the chimney of the incinerator.
- (c) He reiterated that it was the EPD that initially proposed to build the spa facilities. However, when the EPD introduced the splendid new design of the artificial island to Members just now, it seemed that the EPD had not taken into account the original commitments and considered Members' perspectives.
- (d) Regarding the provision of kaito ferry service between Tai Long Tsuen and Cheung Chau, no progress had been made so far. As this ferry route was unprofitable, no operators had bidden for it. The EPD should consider how to work it out.
- (e) He was pleased to learn that progress had been made in the laying of fresh water pipes in Tai Long Tsuen. He said that Members had actively fought for it and followed up with the departments concerned over the years.
- (f) Many fishermen in South Lantau would do farm work in the morning and go fishing in the sea in the afternoon in order to make a living. He had asked the departments concerned whether it was legal to conduct fishing activities in the waters of Soko Islands, but no reply had yet been received.
- (g) Regarding the villagers' applications for the construction of village houses in Tai A Chau and Siu A Chau, as the lots concerned were close to the marine protection area, he opined that the departments concerned should take the initiative to explain the details to villagers, so that they would not give up their applications out of worries about the complicated procedures.

32. Mr YUNG Chi-ming said that most of the over 20 matters of concern that the EPD had just mentioned were services and facilities that the Government should have

provided (including the reconstruction of the pier, the increase in ferry service frequency and the laying of fresh water pipes). He reiterated that it was the EPD who initially proposed to build the spa facilities and promoted the facilities to the residents repeatedly during the lobbying process in order to seek the residents' support for the construction of the incinerator. Therefore, he opined that the EPD should consider deleting some of the facilities proposed to free up space for the spa facilities, so as to honour the commitment it had made.

33. Mr Eric KWOK expressed his views as follows:

- (a) He agreed with Mr Randy YU's suggestion of inviting the government department to join the community liaison group of the contractor to monitor the project closely.
- (b) He opined that many of the over 20 requests that the EPD had just mentioned had nothing to do with the construction of the Shek Kwu Chau incinerator. Taking the Cheung Chau Ferry Pier as an example, the project should fall within the Pier Improvement Programme put forward in the Policy Address. In addition, the South Lantau Sewerage System Works were proposed by the EPD decades ago. Back then, domestic waste water and septic tanks in the villages in South Lantau affected the natural wetland, Pui O River and Pui O Beach nearby, the EPD therefore put forward long-term strategies.
- (c) He requested that the departments concerned to step up management and enforcement of illegal fishing activities in the waters of South Lantau. As different fish species would be introduced and artificial reefs would be laid in the South Lantau Marine Park to promote biodiversity, it was expected that many people would be attracted to engage in illegal fishing there. He suggested that the various departments should strengthen cooperation to combat illegal fishing through measures such as the installation of a surveillance system along the coast.

34. The Chairman agreed that the EPD should assign a representative to the community liaison group to communicate with the district representatives directly and follow up on the matters of concern. In addition, he asked the Secretariat to write to the EPD to request the arrangement of a meeting with Members within one month for an in-depth discussion on the matters above.

(Post-meeting note: As for the follow-up on the Integrated Waste Management Facilities Phase I, representatives of the EPD and Members had held a meeting on 31 August 2022 to discuss the project.)

35. Ms Stephy CHAN said that the progress report just now aimed to respond to Members or the public's concerns about the over 20 requests or the relevant matters. The EPD would continue to work with the various departments. As for matters that

did not fall within the purview of the EPD, the EPD would still be willing to act as a bridge of communication between the departments to assist in the follow-ups.

III. Question on the progress of the construction of stormwater drainages to effectively solve the flooding problem caused by heavy downpours in Ham Tin Kau Tsuen
(Paper TAFEHCCC 30/2022)

36. The Chairman welcomed Ms WONG Ka-ming, Grace, Assistant District Officer (Islands)² and Mr CHAN Chak-chung, Senior Inspector of Works of the IsDO to the meeting to respond to the question. The written reply of the Drainage Services Department (DSD) had been distributed to Members for perusal before the meeting.

37. Mr Eric KWOK briefly presented the question.

38. Ms Grace WONG responded that the IsDO and the DSD had conducted a site visit in July last year with a view to solving the flooding problem in Ham Tin Kau Tsuen, Pui O. During the visit, a work proposal to solve the flooding problem of Ham Tin Kau Tsuen was put forward by the DSD. The IsDO then carried out the follow-up works immediately, including explaining the design and purpose of the works to the village representatives, making land searches and carrying out preliminary works such as work design, with a view to implementing the works as soon as possible. As a part of the project, the IsDO commenced the installation of flap valves for the around 260 drainage outlets of the flood wall on Chi Ma Wan Road in January this year to prevent the backflow of river water or seawater. The main works were completed in July this year. In addition, the IsDO planned to carry out drainage improvement works in Ham Tin Kau Tsuen with the addition of three drains and three flap valves. The IsDO was consulting the departments concerned on the scope of the works and applying for land allocation. The works were expected to commence in the middle of 2023 at the earliest.

39. Mr HO Chun-fai said that Ham Tin Kau Tsuen had been plagued by the flooding problem. He expressed his gratitude to the IsDO and the DSD for following up on the situation closely and proposing improvement measures. He understood that departments had faced many difficulties with regard to the construction, for example, the construction area overlapping with the marine reserve and the objections raised by the environmentalists. However, the IsDO proposed a temporary solution (i.e. the provision of flap valves to the existing flood wall along Chi Ma Wan Road, South Lantau) after communicating with the stakeholders last year and the proposal was supported by the IDC. He thanked Mr Eric KWOK for his attention to the situation and said that the South Lantau Rural Committee had been actively following up on the matters concerned with the IsDO and was aware of the progress.

40. Mr Eric KWOK expressed his support for the above works and thanked the IsDO for its active response and follow-up actions. He suggested that the IsDO to hold a meeting at the village office to explain the content and schedule of the works to the village representatives and villagers in person.

41. Mr Randy YU hoped that the IsDO would speed up the works of adding drains and flap valves, rather than waiting until 2023 to commence the works, as the project was relatively simple. If the works were planned to be carried out in the middle of next year, it would coincide with the rainy season. He hoped the works would be completed before the rainy season of next year. As the project was urgent, he suggested that the LandsD should expedite the processing of the land allocation application concerned, so that the project could commence at the end of this year and aim for completion by the middle of next year.

(Post-meeting note: The DLO, Is completed the processing of the IsDO's application for land allocation for the drainage improvement works in Ham Tin Kau Tsuen, Pui O on 17 August 2022. The site concerned had been allocated to the IsDO for carrying out the works.)

42. Mr CHAN Chak-chung responded that the IsDO had conducted a site visit to the works site in July 2022 and found that the drains were located on an existing driveway. As the road was only about three metres wide, subsidence of road pavement may happen when excavation works were being carried out. In this connection, the IsDO needed time to conduct studies and take temporary protection measures to avoid accidents involving the passing vehicles.

IV. Progress report on DC-funded District Minor Works Projects (Paper TAFEHCCC 31/2022)

43. The Chairman welcomed Ms WONG Ka-ming, Grace, Assistant District Officer (Islands)² and Mr CHAN Chak-chung, Senior Inspector of Works of the IsDO to the meeting to present the paper.

44. Ms Grace WONG briefly presented the paper and asked Members to note the paper.

45. Mr WONG Man-hon expressed his views on the following projects:

- (a) Construction of rain shelter at Nam Bin Wai, Mui Wo (IS-DMW644)

He urged the IsDO to follow up and expedite the work's progress.

- (b) Improvement to pavement near toilet at Silver Mine Bay Waterfall Garden, Mui Wo (IS-DMW703)

He hoped that the IsDO would closely follow up on the improvement works to the pavement so that tourists could enjoy a comfortable environment with garden features.

46. Mr CHAN Chak-chung made a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) A tender exercise would be conducted for project No. IS-DMW644 on 3 August this year.
- (b) The IsDO had consulted the AFCD on project No. IS-DMW703. The AFCD replied that as there were rare and precious species dwelling in the garden area, it was suggested that the work area should be narrowed down. The IsDO would conduct a site visit later, consider the recommendations of the AFCD and study whether the works site should be adjusted.

V. Report by Working Group

47. Members noted the report of the Tourism, Agriculture, Fisheries, Environmental Hygiene and Climate Change Committee Activities Working Group.

VI. Any Other Business

48. No other business was raised by Members.

VII. Date of Next Meeting

49. There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m. The next meeting would be held at 2:00 p.m. on 26 September 2022 (Monday).

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