

(Translation)

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

Date : 29 May 2023 (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 NG Man-kit (Vice-Chairman)

Mr YU Hon-kwan, Randy, MH, JP (Arrived at around 2:05 p.m.)

Mr WONG Man-hon, MH

Mr CHOW Yuk-tong, SBS, MH (Left at around 3:10 p.m.)

Mr WONG Hon-kuen, Ken

Mr HO Chun-fai

Ms WONG Chau-ping

Mr WAN Yeung-kin

Mr KWOK Ping, Eric

Mr FONG Lung-fei

Attendance by Invitation

Mr HO Kwok-fai, Godfrey Chief Engineer/Lantau 3,
Civil Engineering and Development Department

Ms SZETO Suet-man, Helen Senior Engineer/13 (Lantau),
Civil Engineering and Development Department

Mr YIU Kwong-hang, King Engineer/25 (Lantau),
Civil Engineering and Development Department

In Attendance

Mr LI Ho, Thomas Assistant District Officer (Islands)1, Islands District Office

Ms TSE Yik-ting, Ellie Assistant District Officer (Islands)2, Islands District Office

Mr CHAN Chak-chung Senior Inspector of Works, Islands District Office

Mr CHAN Ka-leong District Environmental Hygiene Superintendent (Islands),
Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Ms CHEUNG Suk-man Chief Health Inspector (Islands)2,

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
Ms LO Lai-ping, Rebecca	Senior Field Officer (Agricultural Extension) 1, Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department
Mr HO Lee-yip	Manager District Relation, New Lantau Bus Company (1973) Limited
Ms Anthea CHAU	Senior Communications Manager, Sun Ferry Services Company Limited

Secretary

Ms KWONG Tsz-wing, Wing	Executive Officer (District Council)2, Islands District Office
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Absent with Apology

Ms LAU Shun-ting

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**Welcoming Remarks**

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

2. Members noted that Ms LAU Shun-ting was unable to attend the meeting due to other commitments.

I. **Confirmation of minutes of the meeting held on 27 March 2023**

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

4. The minutes were confirmed unanimously without further amendments proposed by Members.

(Members who voted in favour included: the Chairman Mr HO Siu-kei, the Vice-Chairman Mr NG Man-kit, Mr WONG Man-hon, Mr CHOW Yuk-tong, Mr Ken WONG, Mr HO Chun-fai, Ms WONG Chau-ping, Mr WAN Yeung-kin, Mr Eric KWOK and Mr FONG Lung-fei.)

(Mr Randy YU joined the meeting at around 2:05 p.m.)

II. Food and Environmental Hygiene Department District Action Plan  
(Paper TAFEHCCC 18/2023)

5. The Chairman welcomed Mr CHAN Ka-leong, District Environmental Hygiene Superintendent (Islands) and Ms CHEUNG Suk-man, Chief Health Inspector (Islands)<sup>2</sup> of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) to the meeting to present the paper.

6. Mr CHAN Ka-leong briefly presented the paper.

7. Mr FONG Lung-fei expressed satisfaction with the FEHD's work in the Tung Chung district, but considered that the FEHD should strengthen its cooperation with other departments, such as the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) and the Civil Engineering and Development Department (CEDD). He pointed out that it was currently the rainy season where the proliferation of weeds created favourable conditions for mosquito and pest breeding. Despite regular efforts by the FEHD to apply pesticides, the overgrown weeds hindered the penetration of pesticides into the roots. Given that green belts fell under the purview of the LCSD, he suggested that the LCSD should step up its grass-cutting efforts for effective mosquito and pest control. Furthermore, upon completion of road excavation works by the CEDD, stagnant water often accumulated on the ground, favouring the breeding of mosquitoes. Regarding this issue, the FEHD should explore ways to remove stagnant water. He considered it imperative that government departments enhance communication and collaboratively implement measures against mosquitoes and pests, so as to improve environmental hygiene in the Tung Chung district.

8. Mr Eric KWOK expressed his views as follows:

- (a) He mentioned that fogging operations had been previously carried out in Yat Tung Estate and Mun Tung Estate in Tung Chung, yielding remarkable results in mosquito control. However, it appeared that the FEHD had yet to carry out such operations this year. He highlighted complaints by residents of Yu Nga Court, stating that mosquitoes were frequently spotted during the twilight hours. He had reported this concern to the FEHD two weeks ago, requesting fogging operations in Yat Tung Estate, Mun Tung Estate and Yu Nga Court. At that time, the FEHD had assured him of follow-up actions. He enquired whether the FEHD had completed the aforementioned work and, if not, requested the relevant timetable. Additionally, he had repeatedly raised concerns during meetings about the potential impact of fogging operations against adult mosquitoes on beneficial insects. Currently, the FEHD employed new mosquito traps, which controlled the mosquito population by reducing the number of female mosquitoes laying eggs. He acknowledged the effectiveness of this approach in preventing the aforementioned issue and commended the FEHD for that. He suggested that the FEHD should start with a trial in Yat Tung Estate by placing mosquito traps there and gradually expand to other areas.

- (b) As for rodent control, he disagreed with using poisoned baits as the primary method because of the risk of accidental consumption by other animals. Even if baiting was to be employed, the FEHD should place the poisoned baits in more concealed locations or throw them into rat burrows. He mentioned that several years ago, he had followed up in a meeting on an incident where multiple sparrows and dogs in Ma Wan Chung Village died after ingesting poisoned baits. Unfortunately, similar incidents involving cats had occurred recently. He stressed the need for strict supervision by the FEHD in the poisoned bait placement process and recommended arranging professional training for the relevant personnel.
- (c) During his visit to the Sunlight Market on 27 May 2023, some stall owners raised concerns about the insufficient promotion of the market, low patronage and the unresolved problem of slanting rays of the sun that had been affecting the stalls. He said that he had previously brought up these issues with the FEHD during a meeting. He therefore requested that the FEHD share the relevant information with Members if it was available. Otherwise, he urged the FEHD to provide Members with an update on the situation after the meeting.

9. Mr Randy YU expressed his views as follows:

- (a) He expressed appreciation to the FEHD for its work over the past three years. The FEHD demonstrated swift and effective implementation of epidemic prevention and control measures during the pandemic, with dedicated efforts to improve issues related to refuse collection points (RCPs) in rural areas. Since the adoption of compacting refuse bins at the RCP in Tai O, the staff could attain better efficiency by reducing the frequency of refuse collection. Additionally, in some areas of the New Territories, including Mui Wo, the trial for solar-powered/easy-thrown aluminium RCPs was underway, but the results were unsatisfactory. He enquired the FEHD about the trial results and whether they would continue with the trial or provide any optimisation plans. Furthermore, the FEHD had previously conducted on-site inspections with Members in Pui O Lo Wai Tsuen to explore the feasibility of setting up an RCP in its proximity. He asked about the progress of this work.
- (b) He commended the FEHD for the good management of highly-utilised public toilets, such as those in Ngong Ping, Tai O and Mui Wo. However, the hygiene conditions of public toilets with low usage rates varied substantially. He therefore requested the FEHD to improve the hygiene conditions of the less utilised public toilets.
- (c) Noting the severe mosquito infestation in rural areas, he enquired about the measures the FEHD had taken to address the issue and how

stakeholders, such as District Council (DC) Members and rural committees, could collaborate in resolving the problems.

10. Vice-Chairman Mr NG Man-kit said that after the epidemic, there had been a noticeable increase in visitors to Cheung Chau. As there were numerous snack shops on both sides of the pier, the nearby rubbish bins were prone to overflow, hence he requested the FEHD to undertake enhanced cleaning of the bins. He said that the improvement works for the Tsan Tuen Road Public Toilet in Sai Wan, Cheung Chau had begun six months ago, but had made no progress for the past four months. The contractor had used plastic water-filled barriers to block the entrance of the public toilet, and there were no notices outside explaining the reasons for the halt, which had raised concerns among residents. He enquired the FEHD about the latest status of works.

11. Mr HO Chun-fai said that there was frequent littering because many visitors and new residents in South Lantau were unfamiliar with the locations of the RCPs. The residents of South Lantau considered that the FEHD should identify a suitable site for the provision of an RCP to address this issue. Local residents had suggested to the FEHD that the former petrol station near Pui O Lo Wai Tsuen could be a suitable site, and the FEHD had indicated that it would actively follow up on this suggestion. He enquired with the FEHD about the current progress of the study about the feasibility of the aforementioned proposal and requested the FEHD to arrange another on-site inspection as necessary.

12. Mr Ken WONG said that the issue of a lack of water supply at RCPs in most rural areas had been discussed in previous meetings. However, within the past two years, water hoses had been added to only one or two RCPs. While he acknowledged the efforts of the FEHD in the Islands District, he considered that the progress of projects involving multiple departments still needed improvement. He enquired about the FEHD's timetable for installing water hoses at RCPs. Additionally, noting the overgrown weeds along the coastal footpath in Peng Chau, he requested the FEHD to spray larvicidal oil over that area.

13. Mr WONG Man-hon said that there was often a lot of cow excreta at the junction of Ngan Shu Street and Ngan Shek Street in Mui Wo, which was a necessary passage for the residents. Vehicles passing through the area might end up soiling their tires, which in turn soiled the road, affecting environmental hygiene and residents' lives. He said that in the past, the District Environmental Hygiene Superintendent (Islands) would inspect the area in person. He requested the FEHD to clean the soiled road using a water truck.

14. Mr CHAN Ka-leong said that he had assumed the position for nearly three weeks and expressed his desire to maintain close communication with all Members. He provided a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) He expressed gratitude for Members' acknowledgment of the FEHD's work and appreciated their valuable input on improving environmental hygiene in the district. He also thanked the personnel of the FEHD for

their efforts and assured that the FEHD would adopt a people-based approach and remain committed to serving the public. The FEHD would follow up on the opinions and suggestions raised by Members.

- (b) Regarding Mr FONG Lung-fei's comments, the FEHD would liaise with the relevant departments, such as the LCSD and the CEDD, to look into the situation. The FEHD conducted an Islands District's inter-departmental anti-mosquito task force meeting every month, inviting various departments to discuss pest control issues and follow up on environmental hygiene concerns previously raised by Members. The FEHD would also conduct on-site inspections as necessary and provide technical support for pest control for the relevant departments.
- (c) After the meeting, the FEHD would provide a response to Mr Eric KWOK after enquiring with the Pest Control Section about the fogging operations for disinfestation of adult mosquitoes conducted outside Yat Tung Estate, Mun Tung Estate and Yu Nga Court. In addition to fogging operations, the FEHD also placed mosquito traps to control the mosquito infestation. The inner gauze wall of these traps were coated with biocide and insect growth regulators to prevent larvae from maturing into adult mosquitoes. However, the placement of these traps was subject to certain restrictions, such as avoiding direct sunlight exposure. The FEHD would coordinate with the relevant units in due course to examine the feasibility of increasing the number of mosquito traps in areas with severe mosquito problems under suitable conditions.
- (d) As for rodent control, the FEHD would post warning signs at the locations where baits were placed, and utilise T-shaped bait boxes to prevent other animals from mistakenly consuming the poisoned baits. The FEHD would also employ tools such as rat cages to capture live rats.
- (e) The FEHD had previously liaised with the Architectural Services Department (ArchSD) regarding the issue of slanting rays of the sun that had been affecting the stalls at the Sunlight Market, and had conducted an on-site inspection at the market with Mr FONG Lung-fei on 11 May 2023 to look into the problem. After consulting with some stall owners, the FEHD decided to install transparent vertical sun-shading boards for Stalls 1, 2, and 4, and install sun-shielding heat-insulating glass film on the market's ceiling to reduce the heat generated by direct sunlight. The works were expected to be completed in mid-June, and the FEHD would assess its effectiveness at that time. Furthermore, the FEHD would request the contractor to enhance promotional efforts to increase the patronage of the market.

(Post-meeting note: Due to the recent frequent rain, the estimated completion date of the installation of sun-shading boards and sun-

shielding heat-insulating glass film would be delayed from mid-June to mid-July.)

- (f) The FEHD would enquire with the relevant units about the progress of the provision of RCPs in Pui O after the meeting and provide relevant information to the Tourism, Agriculture, Fisheries, Environmental Hygiene and Climate Change Committee (TAFEHCCC). The FEHD would also arrange for the Members concerned to conduct on-site inspections. In addition, the FEHD continuously reviewed the operation of various solar-powered/easy-thrown aluminium RCPs and solar-powered compacting refuse bins in rural areas, noting that these facilities were currently in good working order. The FEHD would continue to keep in view the situation and consider installing such facilities at suitable locations.

(Post-meeting note: The FEHD had invited representatives from the Water Supplies Department (WSD), the District Lands Office, Islands, the Transport Department (TD), Mr HO Chun-fai and Chairman Mr HO Siu-kei to another inspection at the proposed site for the RCP in Pui O on 9 June. The FEHD would further discuss with the WSD about provision of staff rest areas at the proposed site for the RCP.)

- (g) The FEHD would instruct frontline staff to step up the cleaning efforts for public toilets with higher usage rates in rural areas to improve the hygiene conditions.
- (h) The FEHD would notify the relevant staff to monitor the usage rate of rubbish bins on both sides of the Cheung Chau Pier during holidays and to increase cleaning frequency as necessary. After the meeting, the FEHD would provide additional information for Members regarding the suspension of improvement works for the Tsan Tuen Road Public Toilet in Sai Wan.

(Post-meeting note: During the construction, the ArchSD had found a substantial number of large stones beneath the site of the public toilet, adding difficulties to the works and necessitating a redesign of the foundation. As a result, the estimated completion date of the project had been tentatively extended to the end of December this year.)

- (i) The FEHD was reviewing the issue of insufficient water supply at RCPs in rural areas and was considering the introduction of water trucks to assist in cleaning. The proposal is under evaluation with FEHD headquarters and a timetable for the proposal will be introduced to the Members once available.
- (j) After the meeting, relevant FEHD units would evaluate the hygiene conditions at the junction of Ngan Shu Street and Ngan Shek Street in

Mui Wo, conduct inspections accordingly and timely reply Members concerned.

(Post-meeting note: The FEHD had reminded the cleansing contractor to clean the roads soiled with cow excreta every morning.)

15. Mr Randy YU reiterated that the hygiene conditions of public toilets with higher usage rates in rural areas were satisfactory. However, public toilets with lower usage rates, such as those in Tong Fuk and Pui O, exhibited subpar hygiene. He urged the FEHD to explore ways to improve the hygiene of less frequently used public toilets. Mr Randy YU was pleased to learn about the placement of mosquito traps in the Islands District. He mentioned his visit to the Tai O Heritage Hotel, where the placement of over ten mosquito traps had been reportedly effective in preventing mosquito presence. Mr Randy YU sought details on the FEHD's plan for placing mosquito traps, including the locations and quantities. Considering the absence of roads in many rural areas, including Peng Chau, he enquired about the FEHD's arrangement for using water trucks to clean RCPs and suggested that the FEHD should arrange site visits with Members to discuss these matters.

16. Mr FONG Lung-fei said that the FEHD had previously faced criticism for wrapping rodent baits in plastic bags, but he considered the FEHD's approach was appropriate because rodents could chew through most materials. However, he expressed concerns that the FEHD's subsequent use of alternative methods to place rodent baits, such as spraying rodenticides, could increase the risk of accidental consumption by other animals. Pointing out that the LCSD's practice of sending cut grass to landfills was environmentally unfriendly, he suggested that the FEHD or the Lands Department should consider organising a "sheep team" to naturally control grass growth. He said that the FEHD could simply deploy a few staff members to manage the "sheep team", equip the sheep with trackers and install fences in green belts. He further highlighted that rodents tended to avoid areas frequented by sheep and the sheep's excrement could serve as natural fertiliser. He believed that the "sheep team" could attract visitors to Lantau Island and hoped that the FEHD would consider this suggestion.

17. Mr Eric KWOK concurred with Mr FONG Lung-fei's views, emphasising the importance of conserving the ecological environment. He noticed FEHD staff placing rodenticides on the sides of major pavements and enquired whether the FEHD had provided training for staff responsible for poison bait placement.

18. Mr HO Chun-fai stressed the need for the FEHD to consider the welfare of frontline staff in South Lantau. The lack of water and electricity facilities at RCPs had made it difficult for the staff to change clothes or clean themselves up. Some residents, being sympathetic to this situation, had invited the staff to come to their homes for washing and cleaning. He was aware that the FEHD had been improving welfare facilities for frontline staff in other areas and suggested that it should address the issues in South Lantau by providing facilities such as changing rooms and bathrooms for the frontline staff there.



19. Mr Ken WONG raised concerns about the current practice of FEHD staff using high-pressure water jet cleaners to clean the streets in Peng Chau, which was not only noisy but also environmentally unfriendly. Staff needed to bear the inconvenience of making multiple trips to the Peng Chau Market to fetch water. He suggested that, before considering the introduction of water trucks, the FEHD should explore the use of street washing vehicles. Considering the difficulty of manoeuvring vehicles in Peng Chau's inner streets, he proposed drawing reference from the strategy adopted in Cheung Chau, where water hoses were installed at RCPs to facilitate effective cleaning.

20. Mr CHAN Ka-leong provided a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) Based on the information provided, it was recommended to place mosquito traps at a distance of approximately 100 metres from each other, but the number of traps to be placed could be adjusted based on the size of the area affected by mosquito infestation. The insect growth regulator inside the mosquito traps should be replaced monthly, with the frequency of replacement adjusted according to weather conditions.
- (b) After the meeting, the relevant units of FEHD would liaise and assess the hygiene conditions of the public toilets in the Tong Fuk and South Lantau areas and enhance the cleansing work.
- (c) During his inspection of the rodent control measures in the Sunlight Market in May 2023, he observed that the staff had employed various tools such as rat cages, hanging wax blocks and T-shaped bait boxes for rodent control. He had also consulted the Pest Control Advisory Section regarding the previous rodent issues in the market, learning that the captured rodents were "house shrews", a species of mammal in the Soricidae family posing no threat to public health. Despite this, appropriate measures had been taken by the FEHD to prevent rodent infestations in the market.
- (d) He said that both the in-house and contractual staff of FEHD responsible for rodent baiting were provided with relevant trainings. According to the requirements under the FEHD's pest control contracts, all pest control workers had to complete relevant training courses and possess the relevant certification. The FEHD would monitor the work of her in-house and contractual staff. Any breach of departmental guidelines and contractual provisions regarding rodent baiting would result in disciplinary actions or issuance of default notices.
- (e) The FEHD noted the proposal of using a "sheep team" for weed control.
- (f) The FEHD was concerned about the welfare of frontline staff in rural areas. Previously, the FEHD had provided facilities such as toilets and changing rooms in close proximity to the work locations for frontline

staff. To strive for further improvement on the occupational health of frontline staff in rural areas, the FEHD would continue to identify suitable locations for the provision of staff welfare facilities.

- (g) The FEHD was currently conducting a study to assess the feasibility of using water trucks in the inner streets of Peng Chau. It was also in communication with other departments to seek the water points for street cleaning operations.

21. Mr WONG Man-hon was pleased to learn about the FEHD's mosquito control plan. He said that members of all District Councils could provide the FEHD with information about the spots severely affected by mosquitoes to expedite the identification of suitable locations for the trial placement of mosquito traps, thereby effectively combating mosquito problems. In addition, he enquired whether the FEHD could provide information on the models and relevant details of the mosquito traps, making it convenient for residents to purchase the traps by themselves.

22. Mr CHAN Ka-leong welcomed all Members to provide information about mosquito problems for the FEHD, so that the FEHD could understand the urgency of mosquito control in different areas, allowing them to plan the installation of mosquito traps in areas where needed. The FEHD would communicate with district representatives regarding mosquito control measures for government land or public places and provide technical support to other mosquito control departments to facilitate effective mosquito control.

23. Ms WONG Chau-ping acknowledged the FEHD's swift and efficient work in recent years and other Members also expressed appreciation for the FEHD's efforts. She said that Members had traditionally maintained communication with the superintendent about local environmental hygiene issues. She hoped that the newly appointed superintendent would promptly engage in discussions with Members.

24. The Chairman said that several FEHD personnel familiar with the Islands District had been posted out. As the geographical environment of the Islands District differed from other districts, he was of the view that the superintendent might need more time to familiarise himself with the situation. He believed that the FEHD had adequately responded to Members' questions and urged the FEHD to actively follow up and maintain communication with Members to address the issues.

### III. Provision of Tourist Hotspots Pedestrian Information in Lantau (Paper TAFEHCCC 19/2023)

25. The Chairman welcomed Mr HO Kwok-fai, Godfrey, Chief Engineer/Lantau 3, Ms SZETO Suet-man, Helen, Senior Engineer/13 (Lantau) and Mr YIU Kwong-hang, King, Engineer/25 (Lantau) of the CEDD to the meeting to present the paper.

26. Mr Godfrey HO briefly presented the paper.

27. Mr King YIU gave a presentation with the aid of slides.
28. Mr Randy YU commended the work of the Sustainable Lantau Office (SLO) of the CEDD on Lantau Island. He acknowledged the SLO's remarkable efforts in improving the infrastructure on Lantau Island since its establishment and the assistance they had provided to DC Members in addressing various livelihood issues. He expressed his appreciation for the timely implementation of the project, believing that it would help alleviate the issues of the large number of visitors to Tai O which had troubled the residents there for a long time. He highlighted that the project would not only provide real-time information on the pedestrian flow of tourist hotspots but would also offer details on public transport services to help visitors plan their itineraries. He looked forward to the positive outcomes of the initiative. He pointed out the lack of pedestrian facilities connecting the Tai O riversides apart from the Tai Chung Bridge, making it challenging to achieve effective crowd diversion even if visitors had access to information on the pedestrian flow. He said that the CEDD had previously committed to exploring the construction of a new footbridge near the Tai O Wing On Street Stormwater Pumping Station leading to the area next to the Church of Christ in China Tai O Primary School. He enquired about the progress of the work.
29. Mr WONG Man-hon expressed his support for the aforementioned project and enquired about the completion date for the testing of the pedestrian flow detection system and when the relevant information would be officially released. Recognising the weak network signals in rural areas, he emphasised the need to enhance Lantau Island's network signals to align with the implementation of the project. He also suggested establishing short, medium and long-term goals and gradually expanding the trial areas to ensure that the project would benefit all residents of Lantau Island.
30. Mr Eric KWOK expressed his views as follows:
- (a) He concurred with Mr WONG Man-hon's opinion, acknowledging the unstable network reception on Lantau Island. He said that the Islands District Council (IDC) had previously reported the issue to the Office of the Communications Authority (OFCA) and considered that the CEDD should collaborate with the OFCA to improve the situation.
  - (b) He enquired the CEDD whether the system would transmit the information to bus and ferry companies so that they could increase the service frequencies during the peak hours of pedestrian flow for crowd diversion.
  - (c) He suggested that the CEDD should increase channels for information dissemination. In addition to Tung Chung Town Centre, the CEDD could disseminate relevant information at locations such as the Ngong Ping 360, the Hong Kong International Airport, piers and major MTR stations, so as to inform visitors in advance about the pedestrian flow in Tai O.

31. Mr Godfrey HO provided a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) He thanked Members for their support for the project. Regarding Mr Randy YU's enquiry about the progress of the study on the Improvement Works at Tai O, Phase 3, he said that the CEDD was currently recruiting a consultant for the study, and it was expected that the consultant would take up its duties in the third quarter of this year. The CEDD understood the urgency of the project and would endeavour to expedite the process.
- (b) As for the timetable of the project, the CEDD was currently using Tai O as a pilot location and expected the involvement of the consultant in the second half of the year to assist with the project design. The CEDD would liaise with various stakeholders about the placement of cameras and mobile device detectors (detectors) to ensure minimal impact on residents' lives. The CEDD also planned to install the system and conduct tests early next year. After ensuring the smooth operation of the system, the CEDD would implement a one-year trial run and then disseminate the information to the public through various platforms.
- (c) The CEDD was currently exploring the dissemination of information through various internet platforms, such as the Tai O page on the Hong Kong Tourism Board website and the TD's mobile application "HKeMobility". The CEDD was also considering installing display screens at bus stations in Tung Chung where buses were bound for Tai O to display the relevant information. The CEDD would take into account Members' suggestion regarding information dissemination at major MTR stations and would enhance promotion efforts to ensure that more visitors would be aware of the information and plan their trips in advance, with a view to achieving crowd diversion.
- (d) He said that public transport operators, including bus and ferry companies, would be able to obtain the relevant information from the aforementioned platforms, so as to deploy buses or ferries when necessary for pedestrian flow diversion.

32. Mr Eric KWOK expressed his views as follows:

- (a) He was aware that the public could access the information through mobile applications, but he hoped that the CEDD could simultaneously release such information on other major platforms for the convenience of the public.
- (b) He was aware that bus and ferry companies could access the relevant information. He suggested that the TD should take responsibility for urging public transport operators to refer to such information when

arranging services to divert pedestrian flow.

33. Mr FONG Lung-fei expressed his support for the project, considering that it would enable the public to obtain real-time information on the pedestrian flow at tourist hotspots. However, he was of the view that the information should first be provided to transportation departments to facilitate early pedestrian flow management. He suggested that the CEDD should consult with local representatives before installing cameras and detectors to determine the suitability of the locations and prevent infringement on the privacy of the residents. He asked the CEDD whether the information would be disseminated in the form of videos or photos and suggested that faces be blurred in publicly released information to safeguard privacy.

34. The Chairman agreed with Mr WONG Man-hon on the signal problem on Lantau Island. He had invited the OFCA to Tai O for an inspection, but the problem remained unresolved due to disagreements among residents about the installation of reflectors. He considered that the CEDD should address Lantau Island's telecommunication issues as part of the project. He said that the Hong Kong Polytechnic University (PolyU) had received government funding for a study on the pedestrian flow in Tai O, but he was unsure if the data had been submitted to the relevant government departments. Local residents had not received the research results either. He pointed out that during the events in Tai O like the Lanterns Festival, the pedestrian flow could reach up to 10,000 people, causing difficulties in crowd control and resulting in transportation problems for both residents and visitors. He said that all members of the rural committee supported the aforementioned project, and he believed that the Tourism, Agriculture, Fisheries, Environmental Hygiene and Climate Change Committee would also lend their support. He requested the CEDD to optimise the project details and, after communicating with local residents, implement the project as soon as possible.

35. Mr Godfrey HO provided a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) The CEDD would install cameras in public places such as bus terminals and ferry piers. For places with heavy pedestrian flow and near residential areas, detectors would be installed to detect the intensity of pedestrian flow by counting the number of communication devices, without capturing any images. The CEDD understood the public's concern about privacy and would carefully explore the most suitable approach in this regard. He said that the CEDD would consult various stakeholders on site selection before installing cameras and detectors.
- (b) The CEDD was aware that the OFCA was currently building fibre-based networks in rural villages on Lantau Island and he believed that the district would then experience an improvement in the network signals. He would request the timetable for the relevant project after the meeting.

(Post-meeting note: Under the Subsidy Scheme to Extend Fibre-based Networks to Villages in Remote Areas, Project 6 covered the relevant

villages on Lantau Island. The selected fixed network operator, Hong Kong Telecommunications Limited (HKT), had already commenced the project. They were required to complete the relevant works in phases by the respective deadlines between the first quarter of 2025 and the third quarter of 2026. Depending on the progress of the works, the HKT might be able to complete the network installation in individual villages ahead of schedule.)

- (c) The CEDD would follow up with the PolyU after the meeting to enquire about their earlier study and request the relevant information for reference.

(Post-meeting note: The relevant team of the PolyU had already provided the necessary research data for the CEDD's reference.)

36. Ms WONG Chau-ping enquired whether the system would double-count the pedestrian flow if a visitor visited two locations in one day. She also asked if individuals without mobile phones would be included in the calculation of pedestrian flow.

37. Mr Godfrey HO explained that a mobile phone would emit a signal when attempting to connect to a wireless network and the aforesaid system would estimate the pedestrian flow through detectors that could detect these signals. Visitors without communication devices would not be counted in the pedestrian flow. The CEDD had consulted the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD) on the system's accuracy and the EMSD had confirmed the precision of this method in calculating the pedestrian flow. Adjustments to the system would be made after the trial run. The CEDD was considering displaying real-time pedestrian flow information in the form of traffic light signals. To address privacy concerns, faces captured by cameras would be blurred and the CEDD would make further adjustments after the trial run based on the comparison of on-site observations with data obtained by the system. The information would only be disclosed publicly with the consent of all stakeholders.

38. Ms WONG Chau-ping was aware that the system would calculate the pedestrian flow by detecting mobile phone wireless network signals. She enquired whether the system could detect mobile phone signals if visitors used mobile data without turning on the wireless network.

39. Mr King YIU said that the system primarily detected Bluetooth or wireless network signals from mobile phones. If a visitor turned off Bluetooth or the wireless network or did not carry any communication devices, the system could not include them in pedestrian flow calculations. Since visitors might carry multiple electronic devices, such as smartwatches, tablets or mobile phones, the CEDD had to assess the on-site situation and compare it with the system's data to confirm the real-time pedestrian flow. Besides, each mobile phone has a unique Media Access Control (MAC) address, ensuring that the system would avoid duplicate calculations and only record the duration of the stay of visitors.

40. Mr FONG Lung-fei understood from the CEDD's explanation that the system could detect the locations visited by visitors. He hoped that the CEDD could provide a clear explanation of the data detection and processing methods to alleviate public concerns.

41. Mr King YIU explained that personal identity information could not be obtained from the MAC address of a mobile phone, and that the MAC address data would be deleted immediately after analysis. The purpose of obtaining such data by the CEDD was to calculate pedestrian flow and the system would only record the number of people in the flow.

42. Ms Helen SZETO said that privacy was a crucial consideration in the studies under the project, as well as the priority study scope of the project. The CEDD would require the consultant to ensure that the project complied with the requirements of the Personal Data (Privacy) Ordinance and the Best Practice Guide on Privacy Management Programme. The CEDD would first conduct the study and then engage in in-depth discussions with the relevant government departments and stakeholders to ensure that privacy would not be violated.

(Mr CHOW Yuk-tong left the meeting at around 3:10 p.m.)

#### IV. Progress report on DC-funded District Minor Works Projects (Paper TAFEHCCC 20/2023)

43. The Chairman welcomed Ms TSE Yik-ting, Ellie, Assistant District Officer (Islands)<sup>2</sup> and Mr CHAN Chak-chung, Senior Inspector of Works of the Islands District Office to the meeting to present the paper.

44. Ms Ellie TSE briefly presented the paper she asked Members to take note of the content of the paper.

45. Mr NG Man-kit reported that he held a position in a construction company that might be involved in district minor works projects. He asked whether he needed to withdraw from the meeting.

46. The Chairman requested the Secretariat to provide additional information.

47. The Secretary said that if it fell under the Tier 1 declaration, which involved holding a nominal position, Members only needed to declare interest prior to the discussion but could still take part in the discussion, decision-making and voting without the need to withdraw from the meeting.

48. Members had no further comment.

V. Report by Working Group

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

49. Ms WONG Chau-ping said that the report of the working group had been distributed to Members for perusal by email before the meeting (please refer to Paper I). Members were welcomed to comment on the report.

50. Members had no comment.

(ii) Islands Healthy City and Age-friendly Community Working Group

51. Mr Randy YU said that the report of the working group had been distributed to Members for perusal by email before the meeting (please refer to Paper II). By circulation of the paper, the working group had confirmed on 8 May this year (i) to support the 14th “Quit to Win” Smoke-free Community Campaign in the capacity of the working group and to be a supporting district organisation of the campaign; (ii) to authorise the Hong Kong Council on Smoking and Health to include the IDC’s logo on their promotional materials; and (iii) to promote the recruitment session of the “Quit to Win” Smoke-free Community Campaign by distributing promotional posters and leaflets of the campaign to DC Members, housing estates, corporations and local organisations, or put up the posters and leaflets at suitable locations in the district. He welcomed comments from Members on the report and asked them to take note and confirm the abovementioned arrangements.

52. The Chairman asked Members to take note of the content of the report and confirm the proposal relating to the 14th “Quit to Win” Smoke-free Community Campaign.

53. Members unanimously confirmed the abovementioned proposal.

(Members who voted in favour included: the Chairman Mr HO Siu-kei, the Vice-Chairman Mr NG Man-kit, Mr Randy YU, Mr WONG Man-hon, Mr Ken WONG, Mr HO Chun-fai, Ms WONG Chau-ping, Mr WAN Yeung-kin, Mr Eric KWOK and Mr FONG Lung-fei.)

VI. Any Other Business

54. No further business was raised by Members.

VII. Date of Next Meeting

55. There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:48 p.m. The next meeting was scheduled for 24 July 2023 (Monday) at 2 p.m.

-END-