

(Translation)

Minutes of Meeting of Islands District Council

Date : 5 January 2024 (Friday)
Time : 2:30 p.m.
Venue : Islands District Council Conference Room,
14/F, Harbour Building, 38 Pier Road, Central, Hong Kong

Present

Chairman

Ms YEUNG Wai-sum, Amy, JP

Members

Mr NG Man-kit
Mr HO Siu-kei
Mr NG Choi-wah
Mr HO Chun-fai
Mr YU Hon-kwan, MH, JP
Mr CHOW Yuen-kuk, Jonathan
Mr CHOW Yuk-tong, SBS, MH
Ms KWOK Wai-man, Mealoha
Mr HUI Chun-lung, MH
Mr WONG Man-hon, MH
Ms WONG Chau-ping
Mr WAN Yeung-kin
Mr WONG Hon-kuen, Ken
Mr YIP Pui-kei
Mr LAU Chin-pang
Ms LAU Suk-han
Ms LAU Shun-ting
Mr LUO Chenghuan

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 LEE Sun-fu, Joe	Senior Executive Officer (District Management), Islands District Office
Mr AU Ho-yin, Gary	Senior Liaison Officer (1), Islands District Office
Ms LIU Pui-shan, Lis	Senior Liaison Officer (2), Islands District Office
Mr YEUNG Che-yuen, Patrick	Senior Engineer/1 (Lantau), Civil Engineering and Development Department

Mr LING Ka-fai	District Lands Officer/Islands, Lands Department
Mrs RADFORD Kit-ye, Kitty	Administrative Assistant/Lands (District Lands Office, Islands), Lands Department
Ms LAM Bun-ngee	District Social Welfare Officer (Central Western/Southern/Islands), Social Welfare Department
Mr TO Chak-foo	Chief Manager/Management (Hong Kong Island and Islands), Housing Department
Mr CHAN Ka-leong	District Environmental Hygiene Superintendent (Islands), Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
Mr YAN Ka-kit, Ric	Chief Health Inspector(Islands)1, Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
Ms CHEUNG Suk-man	Chief Health Inspector(Islands)2, Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
Dr CHEUNG Hoi-yan	District Commander (Lantau), Hong Kong Police Force
Ms CHAN Ching-yin, Ivy	Deputy District Commander (Marine Port District) (Acting), Hong Kong Police Force
Ms LI Ka-chai, Denise	Police Community Relations Officer (Lantau District), Hong Kong Police Force
Mr CHAN Sheung-yung, Cyrus	Police Community Relations Officer (Marine Port District), Hong Kong Police Force
Mr KWONG Wang-ngai, Walter	District Planning Officer/Sai Kung & Islands (Acting), Planning Department
Ms HA Chung-wan, Joanne	District Leisure Manager (Islands), Leisure and Cultural Services Department
Mr AU Siu-fung, Kelvin	Chief Transport Officer/Islands, Transport Department

Secretary

Ms Kennis CHAN	Senior Executive Officer (District Council), Islands District Office
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I. Welcome Remarks by the Chairperson and Appointment of the Secretary of Islands District Council (IDC)

The Chairman welcomed Members and representatives of the government departments to the first meeting of the seventh term IDC. She said it was of great significance that, in accordance with the Proposals for Improving District Governance, the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (Government) had reformed the District Councils (DCs), enabling them to revert to the positioning under Article 97 of the Basic Law as advisory and service bodies which were not organs of

political power, and fully implemented the principle of “patriots administering Hong Kong”. After the reform, the main functions of a DC included:

- (a) to be consulted by the Government on district affairs;
- (b) to collect the views of the people in the district in respect of an issue specified by the chairman of the DC, and to submit to the Government a summary of the views collected and the suggested corresponding measures;
- (c) to meet with residents of the district and listen to their views regularly;
- (d) to support, and assist in, the promotion of laws and government policies in the district, and assist the Government in carrying out various consultation, publicity and liaison activities;
- (e) to assist in the smooth delivery of cultural, recreational, environmental hygiene and other services under the coordination of the Government; and
- (f) to provide services for people in the district, such as consultation and case referral services.

2. Members of the new-term IDC came from different sectors and strata, and were with different backgrounds and professions. In addition to appointed members, we also had at this meeting elected members of District Committees constituencies, elected members of District Council geographical constituencies, and ex-officio members serving as chairmen of the rural committees. With the diversified composition, the IDC could provide in-depth and multi-perspective analysis and advice for district work and would be more reflective of the needs of the public. The Chairman looked forward to working side by side with all Members to serve the public, ensure effective communication between the Government and the people, and carry out practical work to improve people’s lives.

3. The coming years would be full of opportunities and challenges for the Islands District. Major development projects including the Tung Chung New Town Extension, the Tung Chung Line Extension and the Airport City would be completed one after another, further unleashing the economic and commercial development momentum of the district. At the same time, the population of Tung Chung New Town was expected to increase significantly from the current level of approximately 110 000 to approximately 300 000 following the extension project. The challenges brought by the growth in population could not be overlooked. In view of the special circumstances of the Islands District, a District Infrastructure and Development Planning Committee would be set up under the new-term IDC for focused discussion on the above-mentioned infrastructure projects. As close district partners of the Government, Members of the IDC had the responsibility to support the Government’s development plans, assist the Government in explaining its policies and measures to people in the district, and to make the Islands District ideal for living, working and travelling through collaborative efforts.

4. Many Members had served the district for a long period of time and were familiar with some long-standing problems in the district, such as the traffic congestion and the illegal parking of bicycles problems in Tung Chung urban area which had been discussed in the preparatory meeting held in December 2023 (Preparatory Meeting). With regard to these livelihood issues that had plagued the district for many years, the Chairman hoped Members of the current-term IDC would conduct thorough studies and make good use of their district network to collect public views, so as to propose short, medium and long-term solutions.

5. In addition to collaboration to deal with some “long-standing, big and difficult” problems, another major function of a DC as mentioned above was to provide consultation and case referral services for people in the district and to assist the Government in the provision of cultural, recreational, environmental sanitary and other services. In this regard, she believed that Members would maintain close liaison with residents of the district, endeavour to help solve the various livelihood problems that they were facing in everyday life, and assist the Government in the provision of appropriate community services.

6. The Government had formulated the Performance Monitoring Guidelines for Members of the District Councils for the new-term DCs, which set out performance targets for DC members, including punctuality in attending meetings, an annual attendance rate of not lower than 80%, the setting up of ward office(s) as soon as possible, the submission of an annual work report to the DC chairman and meeting members of the public on a regular basis, etc. The Chairman hoped that Members would diligently discharge their duties. She looked forward to working with Members and the frontline government departments to do something practical for people’s livelihood and respond to the aspirations of the public with concrete deliverables.

7. Finally, in accordance with Section 69 of the District Councils Ordinance, the chairman of a DC might appoint a public officer to act as the secretary of the DC. The Chairman announced that Ms Kennis CHAN, Senior Executive Officer (District Council) of the Islands District Office (IsDO) was appointed as the Secretary of the IDC.

II. Registration and Declaration of Interests by Members

8. The Chairman said that Members should have a general understanding of the salient points of the Islands District Council Standing Orders (IDC Standing Orders) after attending the Preparatory Meeting. The IDC Standing Orders had been tabled at the meeting for Members’ information. The Chairman asked the Secretary of the IDC to present the paper.

9. The Secretary said that the Secretariat had requested Members in writing that they needed to complete the Registration Form on Personal Interests and return it to the Secretariat by the end of January this year. The Registration Forms on Personal

Interests returned by Members would then be uploaded to the website of the IDC for public viewing. In addition, the IDC Standing Orders set out the requirements for declaration of interests. In brief, if a Member found that he/she had any direct personal or pecuniary interests in a proposed discussion item of any particular meeting, he/she should declare the interests in accordance with the requirements set out in the IDC Standing Orders, so that a decision on the appropriate course of action could be made. If Members had any questions about the requirements, they should make enquiries with the Secretariat.

III. Committees and Working Groups under the Seventh Term IDC
(IDC Paper No. 1/2024)

10. The Chairman drew Members' attention to the IDC Paper No. 1/2024.

11. The Chairman said that committees and working groups to be established under the current-term IDC had been introduced at the Preparatory Meeting. The terms of reference and membership lists of the committees and working groups were set out in the paper.

12. The Chairman announced the list of chairmen and vice-chairmen of the committees and the chairman of the working group as follows:

Committee/ Working Group	Chairman	Vice-chairman
District Facilities and Works Committee	YU Hon-kwan	HO Chun-fai
Food, Environment and Hygiene Committee	HO Siu-kei	LAU Chin-pang
Community Involvement, Culture and Recreation Committee	WONG Man-hon	HUI Chun-lung
Traffic and Transport Committee	WONG Chau-ping	YIP Pui-kei
District Infrastructure and Development Planning Committee	CHOW Yuk-tong	CHOW Yuen-kuk, Jonathan
Working Group on Boosting Local Economy	NG Choi-wah	---

The tenure of office of the chairmen and vice-chairmen above was two years till 31 December 2025. Appointment would then be made again by the Chairman for the remaining two years in the term of office of the IDC.

13. The Chairman thanked the chairmen and vice-chairmen of the committees and the working group for their acceptance of the appointments. She hoped they would preside over meetings in strict accordance with the IDC Standing Orders, and at the same time to lead their respective committees and the working group to actively take forward the work relating to people's livelihood under their respective purviews, work with various government departments to do practical work for the community, and to report regularly to the IDC on the progress of their work.

IV. Schedule of Meetings for IDC and its Committees in 2024
(IDC Paper No. 2/2024)

14. The Chairman drew Members' attention to the IDC Paper No. 2/2024.

15. The Chairman said that the specific meeting schedule of the IDC and its committees for this year was detailed in the Annex. In addition, according to the IDC Standing Orders, the chairman of a meeting could determine the number of times an issue was to be discussed and the speaking time limit for each speech. In order to allow Members to freely express their views while maintaining the efficiency of the meetings, the Chairman suggested that the number of times each Member might speak on each agenda item in the meetings of the IDC, its committees and the working group was three, and the speaking time limit for each speech was three minutes. In addition, the Chairman reminded Members that the annual attendance rate of a DC member at the meetings of the DC or its committees/working groups should not be lower than 80%, and they were obliged to attend meetings punctually and avoid leaving while the meeting was being conducted. Any Member who was unable to attend a meeting should submit an application to the Secretariat before the meeting.

V. "Meet-the-Public Scheme"
(IDC Paper No. 3/2024)

16. The Chairman drew Members' attention to the IDC Paper No. 3/2024 and asked the Secretary to present the paper.

17. The Secretary briefly presented the paper.

18. Mr WAN Yeung-kin said that the scheduled duty hours from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. might be inconvenient for Members who needed to take the ferry home. He suggested that the time slot be changed from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. or from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

19. The Chairman said that since the "Meet-the-Public Scheme" (the Scheme) would be held on weekdays, it was necessary to give consideration to the working hours of the public. If the duty hours were before 6 p.m., some members of the public would have to take leave in order to participate in the Scheme. She asked for Members' understanding.

20. Mr WONG Man-hon expressed support for Mr WAN Yeung-kin's suggestion. He said that the circumstance was special in the Islands District. It would be inconvenient for residents of the rural areas and islands to travel to Central in the evening to participate in the Scheme. This arrangement would only provide convenience for residents who worked outside the islands, therefore, he hoped the duty hours under the Scheme could be adjusted.

21. Ms LAU Shun-ting concurred with Mr WONG Man-hon and Mr WAN Yeung-kin. She said that residents of the islands would directly contact the ward offices after work in the evening to express their views. She hoped the venue of the Scheme would be reviewed.

22. Mr YIP Pui-kei said that the venue would be inconvenient for Tung Chung residents. In view of the large population of Tung Chung, he suggested that an additional venue for meeting the public should be provided in Tung Chung for the convenience of Tung Chung residents.

23. Mr YU Hon-kwan said that Members could meet the public at their offices. However, he opined that some residents might not want to express their views to Members of their respective constituencies, instead, they hoped to meet with other Members of the district through the Scheme. In addition, a selected venue in Central would not only facilitate Islands District residents who needed to go out for work, but also allow other members of the public who were concerned about the Islands District to express their views. He opined that the Scheme could run on a pilot basis first, with reviews to be conducted when necessary.

24. The Chairman made a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) The “Meet-the-Public Scheme” was formulated by the Home Affairs Department, so it was difficult to modify the duty hours. While the Scheme was implemented, residents of the islands could still express their views to Members through the ward offices or the rural committees.
- (b) The service target of the “Meet-the-Public Scheme” covered all residents of the Islands District, therefore a venue in Central was more appropriate. The IsDO had also explored the feasibility of implementing the Scheme at other locations in the district, such as the community halls or Home Affairs Enquiry Centres. However, since members of the public might walk in to participate in the “Meet-the-Public Scheme”, confusions would arise easily in the absence of a fixed location or fixed duty hours.
- (c) She suggested that the Scheme be tried out first as originally scheduled and a review be conducted subsequently to see if there was room for improvement based on the feedback from Members.

VI. Study on Issues of Community Concern and Collection of Public Views
(IDC Paper No. 4/2024)

25. The Chairman drew Members’ attention to the IDC Paper No. 4/2024 and asked Mr LI Ho, Thomas, Assistant District Officer (Islands)¹ of the IsDO to present the paper.

26. Mr Thomas LI briefly presented the paper.
27. Mr YU Hon-kwan said that Members had only around two months to complete the reports, but the issues covered a wide range of subjects, such as bicycles and electric vehicles including electric scooters, electric unicycles and other electric mobility devices. He asked if Members would first reach a consensus on their scope of study, for example, he could focus his study on the bicycle parking problem in Lantau Island.
28. Mr HO Chun-fai said that there were insufficient roads in South Lantau and some footpaths in the area were also damaged. He asked whether the above-mentioned problems fell within the scope of traffic or community facility.
29. Mr LAU Chin-pang hoped that during the study on the “Road Traffic Congestion Problem in Tung Chung Town Centre and Nearby Areas”, relevant traffic data and routing plans of the bus companies would be made available. He asked whether such information could be obtained from the bus companies and the Transport Department via the Secretariat, so that Members could grasp and analyse the fundamental data before consulting the residents.
30. Mr Thomas LI gave a consolidated response as follows:
- (a) As for Mr LAU Chin-pang’s question, Members needed to collect views from the local communities for the reports on the first phase of the study. Upon receipt of the reports from all Members, the Secretariat would summarise Members’ study findings and compile a summary on each issue for further discussion by the Committee and follow-up with the government departments concerned. The purpose of these reports was to identify the areas of greatest concern to residents in respect of the above issues.
 - (b) Mr HO Chun-fai’s question involved other matters in the rural areas, which were not within the scope of this study. Members could choose either “Road Traffic Congestion Problem in Tung Chung Town Centre and Nearby Areas” or “Question on the Use and Parking of Bicycles (including Electric Bicycles)” as the topic of their study.
 - (c) As for Mr YU Hon-kwan’s question, he understood that Members might have different focuses of study under the same issue. Therefore, Members could decide their scope of study under the selected issue on their own. For example, under the issue “Road Traffic Congestion Problem in Tung Chung Town Centre and Nearby Areas”, Members could focus on topics such as bus routes, road planning, economic activities or commuters’ trips to and from the airport. As for the issue “Question on the Use and Parking of Bicycles (including Electric Bicycles)”, Members could study the abandoned bicycle problem in a

particular area in the Islands District (such as Cheung Chau, Lamma Island, Peng Chau or Mui Wo) instead of the entire Islands District. After collecting public views, Members should make analysis and suggest solutions.

31. The Chairman asked Mr LAU Chin-pang whether he wished to obtain from the government departments relevant traffic information that was not publicly available for completing Part III of the report.

32. Mr LAU Chin-pang responded that the problems (such as the traffic congestion at Tat Tung Road) had existed in the community for many years, and he believed that the relevant departments might have already formulated corresponding plans or measures. Therefore, he would like to know the details, so that he could explore the issue in depth and incorporate the relevant information into his study report. He opined that if the Secretariat would arrange discussion between Members and the relevant departments, then the proposed solutions to the problems could be incorporated into the reports.

33. The Chairman said that the purpose of this study was to enable the 18 Members of the IDC to conduct a preliminary study on the two major issues of the district from different perspectives, to collate public concerns about the issues, their causes and crux, as well as the proposed short, medium and long-term solutions. The IsDO would prioritise issues of concern to residents in the district. For example, the “Road Traffic Congestion Problem in Tung Chung Town Centre and Nearby Areas” involved various factors, such as the planning of bus routes, the flow of external vehicles, the condition of road sections connecting Tung Chung Town Centre and the rural areas, and the distribution of public facilities, etc. The Secretariat would compile a summary of Members’ study findings and then submit it to the IDC and the Committee concerned, so that follow-ups could be made with relevant departments to solve the problems. She hoped that Members would first collect public views in the first report.

34. Mr YU Hon-kwan asked whether Members could study the same issue together and submit a joint report, so as to enlarge the number of respondents, thereby increasing the coverage of the study and enhancing cost effectiveness.

35. Ms WONG Chau-ping asked whether questions other than those on the above two issues could be raised at the meetings of the IDC or the relevant committees, if Members so wished.

36. The Chairman made a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) Although a joint study by Members might cover a higher number of respondents than studies conducted separately, the IsDO hoped to gauge the views of the public and understand every Member’s opinions and suggestions on the issues. Therefore, each Member was required to submit an independent report for this study.

- (b) The IsDO had summed up the views expressed by Members at the Preparatory Meeting and designated two issues with priority for study in the first phase. If Members wished to raise other community issues, they could ask questions in accordance with the IDC Standing Orders or request the IDC to conduct investigations and studies in the same manner as described above, so as to study the problems in depth and explore solutions.

37. Ms LAU Shun-ting asked whether each Member was required to submit two reports.

38. The Chairman replied that each Member was required to choose at least one of the two issues for study.

39. Mr HO Siu-kei said that some Members from constituencies other than Tung Chung were more familiar with their respective districts. He asked if Members from constituencies other than Tung Chung collected views from Tung Chung residents, whether such views could be included in their reports.

40. The Chairman said that the IsDO had provided a framework setting out the content to be included in the reports. Members were required to submit their reports in accordance with the framework and could decide on their own the method and scale of public view collection.

41. Mr HO Chun-fai said that the problem of bicycles and buses was less severe in South Lantau. Considering that he was not familiar with the situation in Tung Chung and the views of its residents, he asked whether he could collect the views of South Lantau residents and then pass them to Members of Tung Chung District for consolidation and submission of a report.

42. Mr YIP Pui-kei said he understood that each Member was required to submit his/her own report. He asked if a few Members chose to study the same issue in the same area, whether they could conduct the public view survey jointly.

43. The Chairman made a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) If the Members concerned were to collect public views jointly, the views reflected in their reports might be duplicated. Therefore, she hoped that in this study, Members would conduct their own public view surveys and submit their reports separately. Based on the findings and the views collected in the first study, she would adjust the format of future studies if necessary. However, if Members could ensure that there would be no duplication in the public views collected through a joint public view survey, they could decide on their own the methods of public view collection. A report would need to contain basic information such as the date or period during which the views were collected, the community in which the views were collected, the number

of respondents, the method of view collection (such as resident consultation, telephone interview or site visits).

- (b) As for the question raised by Mr HO Chun-fai, she said that Tung Chung was located at the centre of Lantau Island. At the Preparatory Meeting, some Members reflected that the traffic congestion in Tung Chung would sometimes affect the outer areas, including the rural areas. She believed that most South Lantau residents had to commute to and from Tung Chung Town Centre on a daily basis, in particular those who went to work. She suggested that Mr HO Chun-fai might consider conducting a study from the above-mentioned perspective to gauge the views of local residents on how traffic congestion in Tung Chung affected South Lantau residents' travelling to and from Tung Chung Town Centre. In addition, if there was illegal parking of bicycles in South Lantau, Mr HO Chun-fai might also conduct a study on the problem as well.

VII. Specific Proposals for Launching (a) 18-District Community Care Campaign with Care Teams; and (b) District Clean-up Campaigns with Food and Environmental Hygiene Department before Lunar New Year
(IDC Paper No. 5/2024)

44. The Chairman referred Members to the IDC Paper No. 5/2024, which stated that to welcome the Year of the Dragon, it was proposed that the Islands District Council (IDC) would launch the Community Care Campaign in collaboration with the Care Teams to provide care to the local community, and would complement the promotion of the District Clean-up Campaigns of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD), with a view to improving the hygiene conditions in the Islands District and safeguarding public health. She invited the Secretary of the IDC to briefly present the part on the collaboration with the Care Teams, and Mr CHAN Ka-leong, District Environmental Hygiene Superintendent (Islands) of the FEHD, to explain the specific proposals for launching the District Clean-up Campaigns in collaboration with the FEHD.

45. The Secretary briefly presented the launch of the 18-District Community Care Campaign in collaboration with the Care Teams.

46. Mr CHAN Ka-leong briefly presented the content of the Islands District 2024 Year-end Clean-up Campaign.

47. Mr HO Siu-kei opined that the Year-end Clean-up Campaign would help improve the cityscape and suggested that the FEHD should step up hygiene education for the public.

48. Mr LAU Chin-pang supported the FEHD to step up the cleaning and hygiene work in the Islands District. He pointed out that towards the end of the year, many

residents of public housing estates would purchase new furniture, leading to the accumulation of large quantities of old furniture at the refuse collection points (RCPs). He suggested that the Department should increase the frequency of clearing oversized waste by grab lorries to prevent the above situation. Moreover, he asked the Department to provide details of the ten RCPs as stated in Annex II.

49. Mr NG Choi-wah pointed out that some tall facilities in Tung Chung were difficult to clean on a daily basis, resulting in poor hygiene conditions. For example, there were bird droppings on the canopies of the plazas in Tung Chung and withered leaves on the bus stop shelters. He enquired whether these locations would be covered in the Year-end Clean-up Campaign. If not, he hoped that the Department would include the locations concerned in the campaign.

50. Ms WONG Chau-ping supported the Year-end Clean-up Campaign. She pointed out that there had been serious rodent infestation at some locations recently, and she requested the FEHD to follow up the situation before the Lunar New Year. In addition, she suggested that the Department should step up the cleansing work at Tung Chung Road before the Lunar New Year.

51. Ms Mealoha KWOK supported the Year-end Clean-up Campaign, which she considered beneficial to the community and residents. Noting that there were a lot of rubbish being improperly disposed of and the problem of “dead vehicles” in the district, she opined that Members could report hygiene black spots in the district, so that the FEHD could include them in the Year-end Clean-up Campaign.

52. Mr YIP Pui-kei agreed with Ms Mealoha KWOK’s suggestion. He asked how the FEHD identified hygiene black spots and whether Members could report new hygiene black spots. Although the areas within public housing estates and locations such as bus stop shelters were outside the purview of the Department, he hoped that the Department would follow up on the cleaning work at the locations concerned before the Lunar New Year. In addition, he considered that apart from enhancing education, stepping up enforcement was also very important in improving environmental hygiene. He said that the Department was currently unable to take enforcement actions against situations such as littering in the areas of public housing estates, and he considered that the Department should discuss with the relevant departments on the measures to be taken.

53. Mr CHAN Ka-leong gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) The FEHD would liaise with the relevant stakeholders on the cleaning work at the locations mentioned by Members (such as bus stop shelters). If the locations concerned were under the purview of other departments, the FEHD would communicate with the departments concerned for follow-up. The FEHD would liaise with Members concerned after the meeting to learn more about the locations where cleaning was required.
- (b) The ten RCPs for the collection of oversized household waste as stated

in Annex II were Cheung Tung Road RCP, Kwok Man Road RCP, Lung Tin Estate RCP, Ngan Shu Street RCP, Wing Hing Street RCP, Yung Shue Long RCP, Sok Kwu Wan RCP, Tong Fuk RCP, Pa Mei RCP and Vehicle Clearance Plaza RCP at the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge Hong Kong Port. In addition to the above ten RCPs, the FEHD would also set up additional temporary facilities for the collection of oversized household waste at Pui O Au RCP, Tai Shek Hau Refuse Barging Point, Pai Chong Road RCP and Lo Uk Tsuen RCP.

VIII. Specific Proposals for Organising Activities to Promote Local Economic Development
(IDC Paper No. 6/2024)

54. The Chairman referred Members to the IDC Paper No. 6/2024 and invited Mr LI Ho, Thomas, Assistant District Officer (Islands)¹ of the IsDO to present the paper.

55. Mr Thomas LI briefly presented the paper with the aid of PowerPoint presentation.

56. Mr LUO Chenghuan expressed his views as follows:

- (a) He was in favour of the IsDO's organisation of a carnival and a special bazaar during the Lunar New Year, and considered that revitalising the local economy was an urgent task. Since Hong Kong's economy was currently in a difficult situation, organising the featured activities would help promote and revitalise the local economy and break the deadlock. He emphasised the need for the activity to have its own unique features in order to attract public participation. Taking activities organised by Mainland cities as examples, he pointed out that "Zibo barbecue" and Xi'an's "Datang Everbright City" had successfully attracted tourists from all over the country by combining local characteristics. He suggested that the IsDO should make reference to the successful experience of the Mainland cities and make use of the local characteristics to attract public participation, thereby boosting the local economy.
- (b) He suggested organising a music cafe at the Tung Chung East Promenade and making good use of Hong Kong's advantages as a place where East meets West, and the music elements were to blend with traditional local delicacies to attract tourists. He believed that "good wine needs no bush". Nowadays, with the advancement of information technology, as long as an activity was unique and attractive, it could quickly attract tourists from all over the world through the dissemination of information by the public via the Internet.

57. Mr HO Siu-kei opined that the content of the carnival should mainly focus

on the promotion of Chinese culture. He agreed with Mr LUO Chenghuan's suggestion that the featured activities could include various elements such as music, coffee and alcoholic beverages. In addition, he suggested that the IsDO could consider incorporating nostalgic elements of Sheung Wan "Gala Point" in Hong Kong in the 1970s. He opined that the Government had spent a lot of money on the organisation of the "Night Vibes Hong Kong" campaign. Given that resources had already been allocated for the promotion of tourism, the Government should make good use of the Tung Chung East Promenade to organise more special activities. Moreover, he opined that various departments should co-operate as far as possible by relaxing restrictions on the organisation of large-scale activities, such as allowing the use of naked flame for cooking at the activity venues. Taking charcoal-grilled squid in Tai O as an example, he pointed out that if charcoal grilling was not allowed, the attractiveness of the food would be greatly reduced.

58. Ms WONG Chau-ping said that Members were very concerned about this agenda item. She enquired whether Members would need to write research reports on this item to express their concerns and enthusiasm for boosting the economy.

59. Mr WONG Man-hon said that few large-scale activities had been organised in the past few years due to the epidemic and Members would be pleased to discuss the issues relating to the revitalisation of the economy. He opined that the activities of the carnival were suitable for the general public but seemed to have neglected young people. He suggested organising activities suitable for young people at other locations in the district. He also pointed out that the IsDO had planned to organise a "Beach Music Festival" before the end of the previous term of the DC, but unfortunately the activity was postponed due to the DC election and had not yet been held. He said that the several Beach Music Festivals organised in the past were well received by young people, each attracting more than 10 000 participants. He hoped that the IsDO could re-launch the Beach Music Festival to motivate young people to participate in district activities.

60. Mr Jonathan CHOW agreed with Mr WONG Man-hon's view that it was important for the activity to have elements that attract young people. He considered it a very good arrangement for the IsDO to mention in the discussion paper that "The IsDO planned to invite various organisations, including the Islands District Youth Development Network..." to operate stalls. He hoped that the young participants could gain business experience and customer interaction skills through the operation of the stalls at the special bazaar. He also agreed with Mr LUO Chenghuan's view that musical elements could be included in the activity, and said that the Tung Chung East Promenade was an ideal location for holding musical activities. Moreover, he suggested that the IsDO could consider incorporating street performances when organising large-scale activities. Based on his past experience in organising similar activities in Discovery Bay, the cost for street performances was not high and the IsDO could try to organise similar activities.

61. Ms LAU Suk-han said that the discussion just now focused on the elements and venue of the activity, but overlooked the lack of basic facilities such as water

dispensers and beverage vending machines at the venue. She suggested that the IsDO should organise activities on a regular basis (such as twice a month) and set up stalls selling special snacks and beverages at the venue to meet the catering needs of the participants and to help revitalise the local economy.

62. Mr LAU Chin-pang said that the cherry blossoms and Yellow Pui trees planted by the Airport Authority had attracted a large number of people to Tung Chung during the blooming season. He suggested that the IsDO, when organising activities to boost the local economy, should consider collaborating with local organisations and groups to launch a series of activities, such as arranging for members of the public and tourists to participate in the Lantern Festival after viewing the cherry blossoms. In addition, he pointed out that the proportion of non-Chinese residents in the Islands District was relatively high, and believed that they were also interested in the local traditional culture. Therefore, he suggested including English content when publicising the activities to enable the ethnic minority residents in the district to be aware of the relevant activity information. He considered that since Hong Kong was a place where East meets West, publicity in English would not only attract residents of different ethnic groups, but also overseas tourists to participate in the activities.

63. Ms WONG Chau-ping pointed out that one of the reasons for the current economic sluggishness in Hong Kong was the weak domestic consumption. With the convenient transport network, many people went north for consumption. Therefore, how to attract people to stay in Hong Kong for consumption became the key to economic improvement. She considered that after the IsDO organised different district activities on a trial basis, activities that could boost the local economy could be regularised.

64. Mr YIP Pui-kei agreed that the Tung Chung East Promenade was an ideal location for organising activities. He also supported organising activities there on a regular basis, but considered that attention should be paid to the ancillary facilities of the venue, including water dispensers and feeder transport, etc. He said that at present, temporary transport arrangements were made on the day of the activity to take members of the public to the activity venue by feeder buses. The IsDO should also take into account the transport arrangements when organising activities in order to facilitate public participation. He considered that the outlying islands in the Islands District were rich in tourism resources, and suggested that the islands should collaborate to launch various activities in a series.

65. Mr Thomas LI gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) The IsDO noted Members' views and suggestions on organising district activities and would have further discussion at the "Working Group on Boosting Local Economy" (Working Group).
- (b) As regards the provision of water dispensers at the Tung Chung East Promenade, the IsDO would relay the views to the person-in-charge of the venue.

(Post-meeting note: Two water dispensers and two beverage vending machines were already available at the Tung Chung East Promenade for public use.)

66. The Chairman gave a supplementary response as follows:
- (a) Regarding the permission for the use of naked flame at the activity venue, the IsDO would enquire with the person-in-charge of the venue. It was understood that stalls at some bazaars were currently allowed to use naked flame for cooking, but the restrictions varied from venue to venue.
 - (b) Regarding the proposal on the sale of traditional delicacies, the Lantern Festival Bazaar would consist of three parts, the third part of which was to invite local traders to operate stalls. These traders had years of operating experience and would be able to provide iconic products, including food. The Lantern Festival Bazaar would showcase the diverse traditional culture of the Islands District to the public and tourists.
 - (c) The IsDO noted the views on promoting tourism through a series of thematic activities.
 - (d) As for the arrangement of allowing young people to operate bazaar stalls, the purpose was to provide young people with opportunities to learn about business operations. The IsDO also had certain requirements on the goods and services to be provided by the stalls.
 - (e) Regarding the proposal on the provision of music cafes and coffee shops with strong youth culture and creative elements, the IsDO would discuss the details at the next stage.
 - (f) Members did not need to submit the research reports on activities to promote local economic development at this stage. She thanked Members for their diversified views on the boosting of the local economy and promotion of tourism resources in the Islands District. The IsDO would further follow up and refine the matters through the Working Group.

67. Members voted by a show of hands and unanimously endorsed the co-organisation of the activity by the IDC and the IsDO.

IX. Initiatives Related to District Councils in Policy Address – Proposals for Distinctive Photo-taking Landmarks with District Characteristics
(IDC Paper No. 7/2024)

68. The Chairman referred Members to the IDC Paper No. 7/2024 and invited Ms TSE Yik-ting, Ellie, Assistant District Officer (Islands)² of the IsDO to present the paper.

69. Ms Ellie TSE briefly presented the paper.

70. The Chairman said that the Secretariat received a written proposal from the “Save Lantau Alliance (SLA)” before the meeting regarding the Landmark III “Art Installations at the Tai O Waterfront Promenade” as set out in the paper. The proposal was tabled at the meeting for Members’ reference. She invited Members to express their views on the said paper.

71. Mr YU Hon-kwan expressed his views as follows:

- (a) He was in favour of the proposal of setting up photo-taking spots as set out in the said paper. However, since the term “landmark” had been deliberately denigrated from time to time in the past decades, he therefore suggested avoiding the use of “landmark” for such activities.
- (b) He respects different opinions. However, from his experience in participating in district affairs, the SLA was often opposed to developments advocated by the Government and the local community. He considered that the addition of art installations to the Tai O Waterfront Promenade would not affect the public’s appreciation of the natural scenery of Tai O. Taking into account the views of the SLA, he opined that the art installations had to be stylish. For example, an installation made of dragon boat oars and dragon boat heads was set up in Tai O during the Dragon Boat Festival every year, attracting many visitors to take photos. He considered that the above installation was stylish and unique.
- (c) He took Naoshima Island in the Seto Inland Sea in Japan as an example, pointing out that its demographic characteristics were similar to those of Tai O. Due to the remoteness of the island, many residents went out for work after reaching adulthood, resulting in a drop in the population from over 20 000 to 2 000 people. However, in recent years, a large number of art installations had been added on the island, which not only attracted many tourists to take photos, but also brought many residents back to build bed and breakfasts or engage in farming, resulting in a rebound of the population to 6 000 to 8 000 people. He suggested that Tai O could make reference to the practice of Naoshima Island by first adding a stylish art installation. If the response was satisfactory, more art installations could be added gradually, so as to turn Tai O into a stylish place, thereby attracting young people to return to Tai O to start up businesses.

72. Mr HO Siu-kei expressed his views as follows:
- (a) Regarding the proposal of choosing the Tai O Waterfront Promenade as a “photo-taking” spot, he believed that most Tai O residents would not object if the additional installations or decorations could tie in with the traditional living culture and the characteristics of the stilt houses in Tai O.
 - (b) He considered that in planning any district affairs, it was necessary to take into account the views of the local community, experts and other stakeholders in order to get things done.
 - (c) In addition, apart from the serious mosquito problem in the mangroves in Tai O, there was also a lack of ancillary facilities. He suggested that reference could be made to the practice in Zhuhai of constructing nine-turn bridges and wooden pavilions for the use of tourists and residents.

73. Mr LAU Chin-pang expressed his views as follows:

- (a) He thanked the Chairman for allowing Members to discuss the paper submitted by the SLA, and opined that under the improved district governance system, the DC should listen to different views. He agreed with the views of Mr YU Hon-kwan and Mr HO Siu-kei that there was no conflict between the natural scenery and the art installations. Moreover, some Tai O residents reflected that the number of tourists visiting Tai O had decreased after the resumption of normal travel, dealing a blow to the local economy. He hoped that the IsDO would explore ways to attract people flow, so as to stimulate the local economy.
- (b) He emphasised that the focus of the issues was on the attractiveness of the art installations, and their effectiveness in attracting people flow and compatibility with the natural environment. He took the Tai O Lanterns Festival as an example to illustrate that the setting up of art installations could not only reflect the local traditional artistic characteristics, but also attract people flow and revitalise the economy. Therefore, he supported the implementation of the “photo-taking” activity.

74. Mr YIP Pui-kei expressed his views as follows:

- (a) He agreed with the views of Mr YU Hon-kwan and Mr HO Siu-kei that the provision of artificial art installations would not hinder the public’s enjoyment of the sea view.
- (b) Regarding the issues of boosting the economy, some residents were concerned about the adequacy of transport network support to meet the demand of the increasing number of tourists. He hoped that the above

issues could be further discussed at the Working Group meetings in the future.

- (c) Referring to the proposed locations for installing lighting decorations at the Tung Chung East Promenade as indicated in Annex 1 of the paper, he enquired whether the IsDO would install the lighting decorations at all marked locations. He was concerned that placing the lighting decorations on the lawn would hinder residents from using it, and he reminded that the IsDO should take into account the residents' views. In addition, he suggested extending the opening hours of the lawn from 10:00 pm to midnight to tie in with the lighting activity.

75. Mr Jonathan CHOW expressed support for the proposals in the paper, and opined that the key to the activity was how to design art installations that could fit in with the surrounding environment while having a beautiful and elegant appearance.

76. Mr WAN Yeung-kin said that several Chinese Red Pines in front of the Heritage and Cultural Showroom, Lamma Island showed signs of slanting and were at risk of collapse. To ensure the safety of passers-by, he suggested that the above problem should be addressed before placing the art installations.

77. Ms Ellie TSE responded that the locations indicated in Annex 1 of the paper were the potential locations for installing the lighting decorations, and the final locations of the lighting decorations would depend on whether the design could fit into the surrounding environment and highlight the scenery. In addition, the IsDO would discuss with the designer and make appropriate adjustments having regard to the needs of the users of the Tung Chung East Promenade.

78. The Chairman gave a supplementary response as follows:

- (a) A large-scale activity was held at the Tung Chung East Promenade during the Mid-Autumn Festival last year, which attracted more than 14 000 visitors, including people who enjoyed picnicking and moon watching on the lawn. When the IsDO organised community activities in the past, some of the sessions were arranged to be held on lawns. Lawns were not only popular among children, but also a place where parents felt comfortable letting their children play. Therefore, in considering the locations for setting up the “photo-taking” spots, the IsDO would take into account the usage of each location and how to maximise the benefits of the lighting decorations.
- (b) Regarding the extension of the opening hours of the lawn, the IsDO would discuss the relevant issue with the Civil Engineering and Development Department (CEDD) in conjunction with the discussion on the lighting decorations. To facilitate public enjoyment of the lighting decorations, the IsDO would actively pursue with the Department to extend the opening hours of the lawn.

(Post-meeting note: The IsDO had conveyed Members' views to the CEDD. The IsDO would explore with CEDD the need and feasibility of extending the opening hours after studying the design of the lighting decorations with the designer.)

- (c) She thanked Members for their views on the “photo-taking” spots. It was believed that Members also noted that the paper did not include specific proposals on the design of the proposed art installations. Subject to Members' agreement to the three proposed locations as set out in the paper and the priority to be accorded to the preliminary proposals for “Landmark I: Lighting Decorations at the Tung Chung East Promenade”, the IsDO would invite artists, designers or architects to design the “photo-taking” spots in a way that would fit in with the environment to enhance the experience of tourists and residents.
- (d) The IsDO would not place an obtrusive and out-of-place installation that would spoil the natural beauty of the surroundings. If the above art installations received positive feedback, the IsDO would consider setting up more such installations.
- (e) Since the setting up of art installations would attract people flow, some Members were concerned that the infrastructure and traffic in the district would be overloaded. The IsDO would take appropriate follow-up actions depending on the effectiveness of the art installations.
- (f) As for the several trees mentioned by Mr WAN Yeung-kin, she considered that regardless of whether or not the “photo-taking” landmarks would be set up at the locations concerned, if the trees were at risk of collapse, the IsDO would definitely follow up. She said that she would arrange for staff to conduct an inspection and liaise with the relevant departments for handling.

(Post-meeting note: The IsDO had assigned personnel to conduct an initial inspection of the trees concerned, and would appoint a professional contractor to carry out further detailed inspections and follow-up actions.)

79. Mr HO Siu-kei said some Tai O residents reflected that there were insufficient shading facilities in the district and tourists had no place to take shelter during rainy days. He suggested constructing aesthetically pleasing and practical shading and rain shelter facilities in open areas such as the bus plaza, the old pier and on both sides of streets.

80. The Chairman said that the IsDO would follow up on the above issues and identify suitable locations for the construction of the shade and rain shelter facilities, which would be designed to be both aesthetically pleasing and practical as far as

possible.

(Post-meeting note: The IsDO had conducted a site inspection with Mr HO Siu-kei, and would explore the feasibility of the works proposal.)

81. Members voted by a show of hands and unanimously endorsed the above paper.

82. The Chairman said that the IsDO would first give priority to “Landmark I: Lighting Decorations at the Tung Chung East Promenade” by starting to identify a designer and conveying Members’ views to the designer, with a view to designing the art installations that would fit in with the surrounding environment, thereby enhancing the attractiveness of the location concerned. The IsDO would update the IDC on the progress of the project in a timely manner.

X. Date of Next Meeting

83. There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:35 p.m. The next meeting would be held on 12 March 2024 at 2:30 p.m.

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