

**Minutes of the 9th Meeting of  
the Food, Environment and Hygiene Committee of  
the Kowloon City District Council**

Date: 20 May 2025 (Tuesday)  
Time: 2:30 p.m.  
Venue: Conference Room, Kowloon City District Office

**Present:**

Chairman: Mr LAM Tak-shing, MH

Vice-chairman: Mr WONG Man-kong

Members: Mr CHO Wui-hung, MH

Mr LEE Chiu-yu

Mr NG Fan-kam, MH

Mr NG Po-keung, MH

Mr HE Huahan, MH

Mr LAM Pok

Ms LEUNG Yuen-ting

Mr CHAN Chi-wah

Mr CHEUNG King-fan

Mr WONG Chi

Ms FUNG Mo-kwan

Ms LAU Yuen-yin

Mr PUN Kwok-wah, JP

Mr LAI Yin-chung

Co-opted Members: Mr LO Chiu-kit

Mr YEUNG Ho-shing

Secretary: Miss SIN Hong-ying, Executive Officer (District Council)2, Kowloon City District Office  
Bonnie

**In Attendance:** Ms SIN Po-king, Crystal Acting Senior Liaison Officer (District Liaison)3, Kowloon City District Office  
Mr WONG Lap-yan, Ivan District Environmental Hygiene Superintendent (Kowloon City), Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Ms CHAN Mei-chu	Chief Health Inspector (Kowloon City)1, Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
Mr TAM Yiu-man, Jason	Senior Environmental Protection Officer (Regional East)5, Environmental Protection Department
Ms CHAN Ling-man, Millie	Deputy District Leisure Manager (Kowloon City)2, Leisure and Cultural Services Department

Attendance by Invitation:

Item 2	Mr KO Po-wai	Chief Health Inspector (Kowloon City)2, Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
Item 3	Dr WONG Yick-him, Simon	Veterinary Officer (Avian Influenza Surveillance), Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department
Item 4	Mr YEUNG Hei-kan, Police Sergeant	Assistant Police Community Relations Officer, Kowloon City District, Hong Kong Police Force
	Mr LEUNG Kwai-tang, Police Sergeant	Station Sergeant, Patrol Sub-unit 2 (Hung Hom Division), Hong Kong Police Force
Item 5	Ms TING Wai, Catherine	Housing Manager/Kowloon West and Sai Kung 5, Housing Department
Item 9	Mr HO Wai-hung, Andy	Chief Engineer/Sewage Treatment 1, Drainage Services Department
	Mr LAM Yan-nok, Enoch	Acting Senior Electrical & Mechanical Engineer/Sewage Treatment 1/2, Drainage Services Department
	Mr PUN Ho-yin, Joe	Senior Engineer/Mainland South 4, Drainage Services Department
	Mr LII Kin-chiu	Engineer/Kai Tak Development, Drainage Services Department

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### **Opening Remarks by the Chairman**

1. **The Chairman of the Food, Environment and Hygiene Committee (FEHC)** welcomed all Members and representatives of departments to the ninth meeting of the FEHC.

2. **The Chairman** reminded Members to register their interests in accordance with the stipulation of Order 22 of the Kowloon City District Council Standing Orders (the Standing Orders) and stated that, if the matters to be discussed had any connection or potential conflict of interests with their personal interests such as property rights, profession or investment, they should make a declaration proactively at the meeting so that he could make a decision in accordance with the Standing Orders.

3. **The Chairman** stated that in accordance with Order 80(1) of the Standing Orders, the quorum at any meeting of a committee should be half of the total number of members of the committee provided that District Council members must constitute half or more of the members attending the meeting. If the quorum was not present at the commencement of the meeting or in the course of the meeting, he would direct the Secretary to summon the absentees. If the quorum was still not present 15 minutes thereafter, he would adjourn the meeting. According to the stipulation of Order 13 of the Standing Orders, he then set out that each attendee was allowed to make a maximum of three speeches during a discussion on the same agenda item and the time limit for each speech was two minutes. He also reminded the attendees to switch off their mobile phones or turn the ringers to vibration notifications to avoid causing disturbances to the meeting.

### **Item 1**

#### **Confirmation of Minutes of the 8th Meeting**

4. **The Chairman** announced that the minutes of the eighth meeting were unanimously endorsed by the committee without amendments.

### **Item 2**

#### **Concern about Influenza Surges and Proposal for Enhancing Disinfection Measures at Public Places in Government Buildings**

(FEHC Paper No. 23/2025)

5. **A Member** introduced the Paper and noted the current influenza surges. Given the high foot traffic in various government buildings, it was suggested that the

Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD) could clean the filters for the ventilation system more frequently.

6. **The Chairman** invited Members to refer to the written replies furnished by the Government Property Agency, the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) and the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD), i.e. Documents No. 3, 4 and 8 tabled.

7. **The representative of the FEHD** replied with the main points as follows:

- (i) according to the Accommodation Regulations, the Building Management Committee was responsible for managing the public areas and facilities of government buildings, as well as arranging for their security and cleansing work. Several departments were responsible for the management of the various government buildings in Kowloon City District;
- (ii) upon receipt of the Paper, the Department conducted a review with contractors about the cleansing work in Hung Hom Municipal Services Building and in certain public areas and facilities of the markets in Kowloon City District under the Department's purview (including Kowloon City Market, To Kwa Wan Market and Hung Hom Market). It was ensured that cleaning and disinfection were conducted at least every two hours on frequently touched surfaces, such as lift buttons, handrails and public counters. The contractors also provided additional alcohol-based hand sanitiser in the lobby and at the entrances/exits of the markets for public use;
- (iii) the Department required the contractors to evaluate their work plans and arrange manpower appropriately. They were also required to increase the frequency of deep cleansing based on the actual needs and to schedule the cleansing work within busy hours;
- (iv) the Department had referred the suggestions regarding the regular inspection, cleaning and ventilation improvement to the EMSD for follow-ups. The Department would study the feasibility of increasing the frequency of filter cleaning for the ventilation system with the EMSD;

- (v) at present, the EMSD conducted filter cleaning for the ventilation system every two months and performed thorough inspection and cleaning for the ventilation system every year. In response to the suggestion, the EMSD had advanced the annual inspection and cleaning work for the ventilation system of the Hung Hom Municipal Services Building to May this year; and
- (vi) the Department would actively participate in the follow-ups and closely collaborate with related departments to ensure the safety and hygiene of public venues.

8. **The representative of the LCSD** replied with the main points as follows:

- (i) the current cleansing and supporting services contract specified that the contractors must provide cleansing services for the 3/F lobby as well as the 2/F and 3/F recreational areas of Kowloon City Municipal Services Building; and
- (ii) the Building Management Committee of Kowloon City Municipal Services Building had instructed the contractors' staff to step up the cleansing of the public places of the building to provide quality service.

9. **The Chairman** made a conclusion and encouraged various related departments to implement various preventive measures properly during influenza surges to safeguard the health of the public.

### **Item 3**

#### **Concern about the Problem of Feral Pigeons in To Kwa Wan**

(FEHD Paper No. 24/2025)

10. **A Member** introduced the Paper.

11. **The Chairman** invited Members to refer to the written replies furnished by Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) and the FEHD, i.e. Documents No. 2 and 9 tabled.

12. **Members** raised the following views and enquiries:

- (i) despite the stringent approach in issuing fixed penalty notices (FPNs) by various enforcement agencies, many people in the community continued to feed feral pigeons at present. It was suggested that the Department could study the feasibility of using closed circuit television (CCTV) footage as the evidence;
- (ii) some offenders might have fed feral pigeons out of the reason of animal protection. It was suggested that the Department could turn this into actions that would benefit society, such as volunteer services related to animal protection; and
- (iii) the existing publicity materials were relatively cartoonish. Members suggested the Department to include impactful photos in the publicity materials to raise the deterrent effects, which would illustrate the adverse impacts of feeding feral pigeons on society and animal welfare more effectively.

13. **The representative of the AFCD** replied with the main points as follows:

- (i) the Department had deployed staff to conduct inspections at the black spots of feral pigeon feeding mentioned in the Paper;
- (ii) at present, four departments took enforcement actions in areas under their respective purview in the form of issuing FPNs. The Department would consider joint enforcement operations at certain locations where the feeding situation was more complicated or those that fell under the purview of multiple departments;
- (iii) regarding publicity and education work, the Department would hang banners, set up street booths and distribute publicity materials at locations where feral pigeon congregated so that the public would learn about the impacts of feeding feral pigeons;
- (iv) upon receiving complaints or cases requesting for assistance, the Department would distribute bird repellents to the related venue management depending on the needs. However, the Department had no plans to distribute bird repellents to individuals or residents due to

its trial nature;

- (v) for repeat offenders whose feeding activities were deemed to have seriously affected the community, depending on the circumstances, the Department would issue summons and the case would be transferred to the courts, which would impose an appropriate penalty based on the seriousness of the case; and
- (vi) the Department was currently designing a new version of the publicity leaflets and would consider putting real photos to illustrate the adverse impacts of feeding activities.

14. **Members** raised the following views and enquiries:

- (i) food residues were still found in several black spots of feral pigeon feeding in the district. In addition to publicity, education and enforcement work, it was suggested that the Department could develop new measures to reduce the illegal instances of feral pigeon feeding, such as providing suggestions for prevention against feral pigeon congregation to estate management offices, making use of CCTV footage as evidence for enforcement and conducting talks in schools;
- (ii) enquired about whether the bird repellent currently used by the AFCD contained ingredients that would adversely impact other animals or birds; and
- (iii) suggested the Department to consider deploying officers in plain-clothes for enforcement to enhance the effectiveness of these operations and required the prosecuted individuals to contribute to the community in the form of community service.

15. **The representative of the AFCD** replied with the main points as follows:

- (i) under the Wild Animals Protection (Amendment) Ordinance 2024, the maximum penalty was a fine of 100,000 dollars and imprisonment for one year. For repeat offenders, the Department would consider prosecution in the form of court summons depending on the seriousness of the cases;

- (ii) noting the situation about the streets of To Kwa Wan mentioned in the Paper, the Department would consider providing additional banners and other publicity materials on those streets as well as offering assistance to the owners' corporations of the buildings;
- (iii) the bird repellent currently used by the Department drove away feral pigeons by scent, which would dissipate shortly and would not pose any effects on other animals; and
- (iv) the Department's enforcement personnel carried out operations in plain-clothes to enhance the effectiveness of enforcement.

16. **The representative of the FEHD** replied with the main points as follows:

- (i) upon receipt of the Paper, the Department had deployed staff to the vicinities mentioned in the Paper to affix notices and hang banners at conspicuous locations to remind the public not to feed wild birds;
- (ii) the Department had also arranged for cleansing service contractors to step up the sweeping and washing on the relevant streets to maintain street cleanliness. Officers in plain-clothes were arranged to carry out enforcement operations;
- (iii) the Department would take out prosecution against repeat offenders and the court would impose corresponding penalties; and
- (iv) the Department would consider organising talks in the community to educate the public about not feeding wild birds.

17. **The Chairman** made a conclusion and suggested the Department to continue to maintain close communication with Members and step up publicity at the black spots of wild bird feeding.

#### **Item 4**

#### **Concern about the Problem of Discarded Packaging Boxes / Cardboard Boxes at Stations of Consolidators in the Community**

(FEHD Paper No. 25/2025)

18. **A Member** introduced Paper.

19. **The Chairman** invited Members to refer to the written replies furnished by the Hong Kong Police Force (HKPF) and the FEHD, i.e. Documents No. 1 and 10 tabled.

20. **The representative of the FEHD** replied with the main points as follows:

- (i) upon receipt of the Paper, the Department immediately deployed staff to conduct inspections in the vicinities of Wuhu Street and Man Tai Street, during which some items were found to be placed in public places and rear lanes, obstructing the street scavenging operations of the Department staff. The Department issued three Notices to Remove Obstruction, requiring the owners of the relevant items to remove them within a specified timeframe. In a subsequent re-inspection, the Department found that the related miscellaneous items were removed;
- (ii) according to records, the Department issued 20 FPNs to individuals who committed littering offences and 36 Notices to Remove Obstruction for miscellaneous items that caused obstruction to scavenging operations in the locations mentioned in the Paper over the past three months. The Department seized 20 items which were discarded/caused street obstruction;
- (iii) a waste paper collection bin was previously installed at the locations mentioned in the Paper. The public who used the services of consolidators would discard the packaging boxes and cardboard boxes near the waste paper collection bin. The Department moved the waste paper collection bin to another location at present and the situation regarding the discarded miscellaneous items had been improved; and
- (iv) the Department would continue to pay attention to the situation at the locations concerned and take appropriate actions to maintain environmental hygiene.

21. **The representative of the HKPF** replied and stated that the Police would strengthen patrols at the relevant locations and would conduct joint operations with the FEHD to prosecute the offenders.

22. **The Chairman** made a conclusion and he suggested the Police and the FEHD to continue with the increased patrols and follow up on the relevant problems to improve the environmental hygiene of the community.

### **Item 5**

#### **Concern about the Problem of Rodent Infestation in Kai Tak and the Putting Forward of Proposed Solutions**

(FEHD Paper No. 26/2025)

23. **A Member** introduced the Paper and supplemented as follows:

- (i) suggested the Department to provide free consultation services on anti-rodent measures in housing estates to the management companies of private housing in Kai Tak area;
- (ii) the rubbish bins in Kai Tak Station Square (KTSS) were filled with a large amount of rubbish after major events. It was suggested that the LCSD could deploy additional manpower for clean-ups; and
- (iii) given a number of active sites still present in Kai Tak area, it was suggested that the departments could strengthen inspections and offer advices for rodent prevention and control to people in charge of the construction sites.

24. **The Chairman** invited Members to refer to the written replies furnished by the LCSD, the Drainage Services Department (DSD), the Housing Department (HD) and the FEHD, i.e. Documents No. 5, 6, 7 and 11 tabled.

25. **The representative of the FEHD** replied with the main points as follows:

- (i) the Department was highly concerned about the situation of rodent infestation in the Kai Tak Development Area. In addition to stepping up the cleansing work in the public places of Kai Tak area, the Department would also take the initiative to offer advices for rodent prevention and control to the housing estates in Kai Tak area and the management section of other government venues; and
- (ii) the Department would conduct talks on rodent and mosquito prevention and control in Kai Tak area and enhance publicity efforts

to raise public awareness on rodent prevention and control.

26. **The representative of the LCSD** replied with the main points as follows:

- (i) the Department had arranged for cleansing contractors to step up cleaning. Rubbish was cleared from the venue daily and the rubbish bins were kept properly covered to eliminate the food source and harbourage of rodents;
- (ii) the Department had engaged rodent control services contractor to conduct anti-rodent work, including placing rodenticides, sealing off rodent harbourages and conducting all relevant cleaning work afterwards; and
- (iii) the Department would deploy additional manpower to clean up the venue after major events and would continue to pay close attention to cleaning and anti-rodent work in the venue.

27. **The representative of the HD** replied with the main points as follows:

- (i) the Department had stepped up daily cleaning and pest control measures in public housing estates in Kai Tak area, including Tak Long Estate and Kai Ching Estate, as well as Kai Long Court and the newly completed Kai Yan Court under the Subsidised Sale Flats Project;
- (ii) the Department would also enhance the effectiveness of rodent prevention and control work through multi-pronged operations, which included improving environmental hygiene of housing estates, strengthening the district rodent prevention and anti-rodent work as well as putting in publicity and education efforts;
- (iii) the Department would target rodents from three aspects, namely food, harbourage and passages, which involved the elimination of food sources, removal of hiding places and blockage of the dispersal routes of rodents. For locations with more serious rodent infestation in the housing estates, the Department would place additional rodenticides, install rodent meshes and rat guards and carry out targeted anti-rodent work to enhance the effectiveness of anti-rodent efforts, and

- (iv) the Department had recently deployed two additional security guards for Kai Ching Estate and Tak Long Estate to increase patrols from 8 p.m. to 11 p.m., thereby strengthening rodent prevention and control.

28. **Members** raised the following enquiries and views:

- (i) the problem of rodent infestation involved multiple departments. To enhance the efficiency of anti-rodent work, it was suggested that the departments and Members should establish a good communication mechanism to ensure the environmental hygiene conditions of the vicinity near Kai Tak Sports Park, thereby maintaining Hong Kong's image as an international city;
- (ii) the FEHD previously visited a private housing estate in Kai Tak with Members and provided anti-rodent suggestions to the relevant management company. It was suggested that the Department should consider adopting this practice in other housing estates;
- (iii) the rubbish bins in the vicinity of Kai Tak were filled with rubbish after major events. It was suggested that the Department should increase the number of rubbish bins during major events;
- (iv) enquired whether the rodenticides, cleaning supplies and tools used by the Department were harmless to pets;
- (v) given the large number of active sites in Kai Tak area, many construction workers had lunch in the vicinity of the KTSS during lunch hours. Although the Department had provided many rubbish bins of large and small sizes in this location for their use, food residues might drop on the floor when discarding food packaging and attract pest. It was suggested that the Department could deploy additional manpower for inspections and cleaning during lunch hours; and
- (vi) enquired about the Rodent Infestation Rate in Kai Tak area and the measures implemented to raise the Rodent Absence Rate (RAR).

29. **The representative of the FEHD** replied with the main points as follows:

- (i) the RARs in Kai Tak area for the first and the second halves of 2024 were 99% and 97% respectively;
- (ii) the management of the vicinity of Kai Tak involved multiple departments. In response to Members' views, the Department would further increase inspections in the public places of the vicinity of the relevant location, and would empty the rubbish bins in a timely manner; and
- (iii) the Department would consider using instant messaging applications for liaison with other departments to enhance communication.

30. **The representative of the LCSD** replied with the main points as follows:

- (i) the Department would assess the situation in Kai Tak area and would increase the number of rubbish bins in the area when necessary; and
- (ii) the Department applied rodenticides according to the FEHD's instructions and placed rodenticides in lidded containers to prevent accidental ingestion by other animals.

31. **The representative of the HD** replied with the main points as follows:

- (i) in addition to regular inspections, the Department would also conduct joint cleaning operations with other departments to step up the cleaning and pest control work in housing estates and their surrounding vicinities; and
- (ii) the Department would provide training courses on pest control to management personnel and cleansing service contractors of housing estates and courts from time to time.

32. **The Chairman** made a conclusion and he would like the departments to continue to follow up on the situation of rodent infestation in Kai Tak area and maintain close communication with Members.

**Item 6****Concern about Problems of Noise, Rodent and Mosquito Infestations Caused by the Works in the Construction Site at Whampoa Street**

(FEHD Paper No. 27/2025)

33. **A Member** introduced the Paper.
34. **The Chairman** invited Members to refer to the written replies furnished by the FEHD and the Environmental Protection Department (EPD), i.e. Documents No. 12 and 14 tabled.
35. **The representative of the FEHD** replied with the main points as follows:
- (i) the Department would continue to step up pest control work around the locations mentioned in the Paper. Regular inspections would be conducted at nearby construction sites to ensure there was no water ponding; and
  - (ii) if mosquito breeding was found in construction sites, the Department would take out prosecution against the related individuals. According to records, the Department took out a total of three prosecutions in this district for mosquito breeding in construction sites from January to April this year.
36. **The representative of the EPD** replied with the main points as follows:
- (i) according to the existing Noise Control Ordinance, any person who used powered mechanical equipment for the purpose of carrying out general construction work during restricted hours (i.e. between the hours of 7 p.m. and 7 a.m. on a weekday, or at any time on a general holiday), or carrying out prescribed construction works within a designated area must obtain a construction noise permit issued by the Department in advance, and the works must be carried out in accordance with the conditions of the permit. Otherwise, it constituted an offence. Nevertheless, the noise generated by general construction works outside of restricted hours (i.e. during daytime of a weekday) was not subject to the foregoing provisions;

- (ii) upon receipt of the Paper, the Department immediately deployed staff to the construction site mentioned in the Paper in the evening for surprise inspection, during which no construction activity or illegal situation was found in the construction site. The contractor had also installed a noise barrier at the site perimeter to reduce the impact of daytime construction noise on nearby residents; and
- (iii) the Department reminded the person in charge of the construction site to comply with the related requirements under the Noise Control Ordinance and take appropriate noise mitigation measures to further reduce the nuisance caused by the works to nearby residents. This included reviewing related procedures, arranging operations involving heavy construction machinery at later hours in the morning (such as after 8 a.m.) when feasible and considering the use of quieter powered mechanical equipment for the works.

37. **The Chairman** made a conclusion and suggested the Department to carry out surprise inspections to ensure there was no irregularities in the relevant construction sites.

### **Item 7**

#### **Concern about the Installation of 3-coloured Recycling Bins and the Problem of Food Waste Handling by Restaurants in the Old Areas of Hung Hom**

(FEHC Paper No. 28/2025)

38. **A Member** introduced the Paper.

39. **The Chairman** invited Members to refer to the written replies furnished by the FEHD and the EPD, i.e. Documents No. 13 and 15 tabled.

40. **The representative of the FEHD** replied with the main points as follows:

- (i) upon the receipt of the Paper, the Department had immediately deployed staff to conduct blitz inspection to the restaurants in the vicinity of Hung Hom old district. In addition to providing health education to the operators of the restaurants, the staff of the Department also reminded food business operators that they must comply with the licensing conditions, and disposal of food waste and wastewater in rear lanes and surface channels were not allowed.

Restaurants must be operated in accordance with the Food Business Regulation (Cap. 132X) and the Public Health and Municipal Services Ordinance (Cap. 132), as well as provisions of its subsidiary legislation relating to food safety and environmental hygiene. Otherwise, they might face prosecution; and

- (ii) according to records, the Department conducted multiple blitz operations between last May and this April as targeted efforts to combat the disposal of wastewater into roadside gullies by food premises in the district in order to maintain environmental hygiene. During these blitz operations, staff of the Department issued 12 FPNs and took out three prosecutions in total against the related offenders pursuant to the Public Cleansing and Prevention of Nuisances Regulation (Cap. 132BK) and the Food Business Regulation (Cap. 132X) respectively. Over the past six months, the Department issued one warning letter and 86 verbal warning in total to food business operators who breached related licensing conditions.

41. **The representative of the EPD** replied with the main points as follows:

- (i) the development and continuous enhancement in the services of the community recycling network of GREEN@COMMUNITY, along with the implementation of various waste reduction and recycling programmes, had gradually diminished the role of roadside recycling bins in community recycling support in urban areas. There were currently one recycling store GREEN@HUNG HOM, six daytime recycling spots and one nighttime recycling spot in Hung Hom area. Therefore, the Department had no plans to re-install roadside recycling bins in Hung Hom area;
- (ii) under the GREEN\$ Electronic Participation Incentive Scheme, the public could use facilities under GREEN@COMMUNITY or smart recycling bins for recycling to earn points for gift redemption. Details about the recycling facilities could be found on the interactive map for recycling points on the Hong Kong Waste Reduction Website under the EPD;
- (iii) regarding food waste recycling, the Department were actively implementing various measures to support commercial & industrial

food waste recycling in recent years, which included providing free point-to-point food waste collection services to large restaurants and setting up over 200 Public Food Waste Recycling Points across the territory for use of small restaurants. The Department also proactively contacted restaurants in various districts, distributed publicity leaflets, explained the food waste separation methods and provided participating restaurants with free transparent plastic bags and small containers for food waste to facilitate separation in kitchens and temporary storage of food waste;

- (iv) in November last year, the Department introduced an honourable Diamond Class of recognition for the Food Wise Eateries Scheme to commend restaurants with outstanding performance in food waste reduction and recycling to encourage more businesses to participate; and
- (v) the Department would continue to promote various schemes and measures and collaborate with local restaurants to step up the promotion and publicity of food waste reduction and recycling.

42. **The Chairman** made a conclusion and stated that there were past incidents of damaged recycling bins and stolen recyclables in the district. He would like the EPD to work on proper management to prevent such incidents from happening again.

### **Item 8**

#### **Follow-up on the Progress of Food Waste Recycling Schemes in Kowloon City District and Feedback about Proposals on Food Waste Recycling in Ho Man Tin and Kadoorie Areas**

(FEHC Paper No. 29/2025)

43. **A Member** introduced the Paper.

44. **The Chairman** invited Members to refer to the written reply furnished by the EPD, i.e. Document No. 16 tabled.

45. **Members** raised the following enquiries and views:

- (i) at present, some single-block buildings were not able to apply for the Pilot Scheme on Food Waste Smart Recycling Bins in Private

Housing Estates (the Pilot Scheme) since their household number did not reach 1 000 units. It was suggested that the Department could lower the application threshold of the Pilot Scheme to allow more private housing estates to participate; and

- (ii) based on observations, recycling facilities for plastic bottles and paper did not cause serious impact to the environmental hygiene of shopping malls. Therefore, it was suggested that the Department could consider providing additional food waste recycling facilities in government buildings or other suitable areas in the district.

46. **The representative of the EPD** replied with the main points as follows:

- (i) as at 29 August 2024, a total of nine housing estates applied for the Pilot Scheme, among which the applications from One Victoria and Royal Peninsula were approved. The preparatory work for the installation of the food waste smart bins was underway and the rest of the applications were still in progress. After 29 August 2024, there was one application for the Pilot Scheme from Whampoa Garden (Site 3 and Site 4);
- (ii) since the private housing estates in the vicinities of Kowloon Tong and Beacon Hill were mostly low-density residence and small-scale private estates, they did not meet the existing application threshold of the Pilot Scheme, which required a total household number of not less than 1 000 units. The Department had been maintaining close communication with various property management companies (PMCs), as well as conducting talks for these PMCs and the management offices under their housing estates to explain the details and application methods of the Pilot Scheme. The Department was currently exploring the feasibility of lowering the application threshold for the Pilot Scheme to allow more private housing estates to participate;
- (iii) the Department had set up Food Waste Recycling Points in 13 Refuse Collection Points (RCPs) in Kowloon City District to facilitate the use by nearby restaurants and residents;

- (iv) the RCP under the FEHD on Man Wan Road closed at 5:30 p.m. and the demand for food waste collection was mostly during evening hours. Therefore, the Department had no plans to set up a Food Waste Recycling Point at this RCP;
- (v) to further facilitate the participation of food waste recycling by residents of single-block buildings and “three-nil” buildings, the Department had strategically set up six food waste recycling spots in Kowloon City District to provide night-time food waste collection services in the form of kerbside collection booths at fixed time and locations. Having noted Members’ views, the Department would continue to identify appropriate venues to set up Public Food Waste Recycling Points and consider prioritising locations without food waste recycling facilities nearby for proper use of public funds; and
- (vi) the Department installed a total of five smart recycling bins in Kowloon City District under the Pilot Programme on Smart Recycling Systems, one of which was installed in Homantin Plaza. The Department would continue to evaluate their usage and noted the suggestion about the additional provision of smart recycling bins in Ho Man Tin area and Kadoorie area. When planning for the provision of the smart recycling bins, the Department would take reference to the views from various parties and the overall community recycling facilities of that area to make timely adjustment to the locations and number of smart recycling facilities provided, thereby ensuring a higher utilisation rate and effectiveness of the smart recycling bins.

47. **The Chairman** made a conclusion and he would like the Department to continue to actively promote food waste recycling schemes to benefit more residents.

## **Item 9**

### **Any Other Business**

#### **A Serious Follow-up: Severe Water Pollution of Kai Tak River and the Problem of a Large Numbers of Dead Fish Floating on the River Surface**

(FEHC Paper No. 31/2025)

48. **The Chairman** stated that he received Members’ request to discuss the recent severe water pollution and the problem of mass fish deaths in Kai Tak River after the

closing date for submission of papers. Given the seriousness of the situation, he therefore agreed to Members' request and invited relevant departments to provide responses at the meeting.

49. **A Member** introduced the Paper and supplemented that some algae-like plants were found accumulating at the bottom of the river. It was suggested that the Department should pay attention to the conditions at the bottom of the river and take corresponding follow-ups to protect the fish and other species inhabiting Kai Tak River. **The Member** also mentioned that the pollution problem of Kai Tak River had persisted for an extended period and would like the departments to identify the culprit of the pollution to solve the problem completely.

50. **The Chairman** invited Members to refer to the written reply furnished by the FEHD, i.e. Document No. 17 tabled.

51. **The representative of the DSD** replied with the main points as follows:

- (i) the mass fish deaths was mainly caused by the emergency repair works at the Department's effluent pumping station located upstream of Kai Tak River, which resulted in a drop in the river's water level. In addition, the relatively low rainfall recently also caused certain sections of Kai Tak River to dry up; and
- (ii) for future emergency works at the effluent pumping station, the Department would pay close attention to the water level of Kai Tak River and the weather conditions in order to reduce the impact on the environment.

52. **The representative of the EPD** replied with the main points as follows:

- (i) this was an isolated incident;
- (ii) since 2023, the Department took the initiative to investigate the source of pollution of the entire catchment area of the Kai Tak River (i.e. covering the vicinities of Wong Tai Sin, Tsz Wan Shan, San Po Kong and Kowloon City). Over 20 cases of misconnected sewers were successfully identified and referred to related departments for follow-ups and rectifications. Rectification works for all cases was completed in March this year; and

- (iii) the Department had set up routine monitoring stations at various locations of Kai Tak River for monthly inspection of water quality of Kai Tak River. According to the monitoring results, the various water quality parameters of Kai Tak River generally complied with the related Water Quality Objectives.

53. **The representative of the FEHD** stated that upon receiving the report from the DSD about the large numbers of dead fish floating on the surface of Kai Tak River, the Department immediately arranged for the public cleansing services contractor to conduct joint operations with the DSD to clear the floating fish bodies.

54. **Members** raised the following enquiries and views:

- (i) enquired about the remedial measures that the Department took upon identifying the problem and methods for future prevention;
- (ii) the stench at Kai Tak River remained even after all cases of misconnected sewers had been handled. Members enquired about the source of the stench and the measures to improve the stench problem;
- (iii) suggested the Department to release the test results of the water quality of Kai Tak River to Members and residents on a regular basis in the future; and
- (iv) the Department mentioned in a previous meeting that sewage could not be discharged from the Kai Tak River due to the tidal movements. Members enquired whether the Department would consider carrying out improvement works so that the sewage could be discharged into the sea.

55. **The representative of the DSD** replied with the main points as follows:

- (i) the treated effluent discharged to Kai Tak River by the Department complied with the discharge standard for Sewage Treatment Works prescribed by the EPD;
- (ii) repair works of the Department in general would not affect pump operations. However, the operation at the pumping station must be

suspended so that this emergency repair could be completed in a safe manner;

- (iii) to prevent similar incidents from happening, the Department would avoid conducting works in dry seasons and would pay close attention to the water level of Kai Tak River before commencing the works to reduce the impact of the works on the ecological conditions of Kai Tak River; and
- (iv) Kai Tak River was one of the major drainage channels in East Kowloon. The Department was responsible for the repair and maintenance of the drainage system of Kai Tak River and regularly deployed staff for inspections to ensure the river was free of blockages, thereby reducing the risk of floods.

56. **The Chairman** made a conclusion and he would like the Department to continue to monitor the water quality of Kai Tak River and report to Members in a timely manner.

### **Item 10**

#### **Date of Next Meeting**

57. **The Chairman** announced that the next meeting would be held at 2:30 p.m. on 10 July 2025 and the closing date for submission of papers would be 24 June 2025.

58. **The Chairman** announced the adjournment of the meeting at 3:57 p.m.

The minutes of this meeting were confirmed on 10 July 2025.

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The Chairman

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The Secretary