

Minutes of the 5th Meeting of the Southern District Council (SDC)
(2012-2015)

Date : 19 July 2012
Time : 2:30 p.m.
Venue : SDC Conference Room

Present:

Mr CHU Ching-hong, JP (Chairman)
Mr CHAN Fu-ming, MH (Vice-Chairman)
Mr AU Lap-sing
Mr AU Nok-hin
Mr CHAI Man-hon
Mrs CHAN LEE Pui-ying
Ms CHEUNG Sik-yung
Mr CHU Lap-wai
Mr FUNG Se-goun, Fergus
Mr FUNG Wai-kwong
Mr LAM Kai-fai, MH
Ms LAM Yuk-chun, MH
Dr LIU Hong-fai, Dandy
Mr LO Kin-hei
Mrs MAK TSE How-ling, Ada
Mr TSUI Yuen-wa
Mr WONG Ling-sun, Vincent
Dr YANG Mo, PhD
Mr YEUNG Wai-foon, MH, JP
Mr Paul ZIMMERMAN

Secretary:

Miss LIN Ming Senior Executive Officer (District Council),
Southern District Office, Home Affairs Department

In Attendance:

Ms WAI Yee-yau, Christine, JP District Officer (Southern), Home Affairs Department
Miss WONG Choi-yau, Joyce Assistant District Officer (Southern),
Home Affairs Department

Ms LAI Yuet-ye, Elaine	Senior Executive Officer (District Management), Southern District Office, Home Affairs Department	
Ms LO Mun-wah, Cindy	Senior Liaison Officer, Southern District Office, Home Affairs Department	
Mr WONG Hung-yuen	Chief Health Inspector (Southern), Food and Environmental Hygiene Department	
Mr CHAN Wai-kiu, Alex	District Leisure Manager (Southern), Leisure and Cultural Services Department	
Mr WONG Yuet-chung	Senior Housing Manager/HK, Housing Department	
Mr WONG Siu-wah, Pierre	Chief Engineer/HK(2) (Actg), Civil Engineering and Development Department	
Miss AU YEUNG Yuet-wah, Alice	Principal Transport Officer/Urban, Transport Department	
Mr Wise CHOY	Deputy District Commander (Western), Hong Kong Police Force	
Mr LAW Shu-pui	Police Community Relations Officer (Western), Hong Kong Police Force	
Mr CHAN Chor-kam, Andy	Director of Fire Services, Fire Services Department	} for agenda item 1
Mr LAU Sing-wah	Div Commander (Hong Kong West), Fire Services Department	
Mr LEUNG Yiu-wah	Asst Ch Ambulance Offr (Hong Kong), Fire Services Department	
Mr SUEN Wai-cheong	Div Offr (Management Group) (Actg), Fire Services Department	
Mr NG Tak-wing	Chief Engineer/Railway Development 1-1, Highways Department	} for agenda item 4
Mr WAT Wai-ching, Stephen	Senior Engineer/SIL(1), Highways Department	
Mr CHAN Gin-wing, David	Senior Engineer/Priority Railway 3, Transport Department	
Ms Jackie CHOW	Public Relations Manager – Projects & Property, MTR Corporation Limited	
Mr Bernard WONG	Senior Liaison Engineer, MTR Corporation Limited	
Mr Wilfred YEUNG	Chief Architect, MTR Corporation Limited	
Mr CHAN Man-chun	Vice-Chairman, Southern District Recreation and Sports Association	for agenda item 6

Opening Remarks:

The Chairman welcomed Mr CHAN Chor-kam, Director of Fire Services (D of FS), and the following representatives from the Fire Services Department (FSD) to the meeting for discussion of agenda item 1:

- Mr LAU Sing-wah, Div Commander (Hong Kong West)
- Mr LEUNG Yiu-wah, Asst Ch Ambulance Offr (Hong Kong)
- Mr SUEN Wai-cheong, Div Offr (Management Group) (Atg)

2. The Chairman also welcomed Members and regular government representatives to the meeting.

3. The Chairman advised that the meeting would be conducted in accordance with the established arrangement, under which each Member would be allotted a maximum of two three-minute slots to speak in respect of each agenda item. He also reminded Members to speak as concise as possible. The electronic timer would beep when it reached two minutes 30 seconds and three minutes of each speaking slot respectively. The suggested duration for discussion of the agenda items (Reference Paper – 1) had been e-mailed to Members earlier.

4. The Chairman reminded Members to fill in the “Declaration of Interest for Project Financed by District Council Funds” tabled as appropriate for discussion of fund applications later on at the meeting. Then Members should return the completed forms to the staff of the Secretariat before the discussion.

Agenda Item 1: Meeting of Director of Fire Services with SDC Members

[2:33 p.m. - 4:01 p.m.]

5. The Chairman said that the purposes of the Heads of Bureaux/Departments visiting DCs were to meet with DC Members and to hear about the expectations of various parties. Should Members wish to discuss on a specific topic, they should put forward an agenda item according to the Standing Orders, so that the Secretary could invite representatives of respective government department or bureau to join the discussion.

6. The Chairman continued that the estimated discussion time for this agenda item was one hour. D of FS would briefly introduce the work of FSD, and then Members would take turns to raise their enquiries and comments.

(Mr WONG Ling-sun joined the meeting at 2:38 p.m.)

7. Mr CHAN Chor-kam, with the aid of PowerPoint presentation (PowerPoint -1), briefly introduced the organisation structure, major duties, work report for 2011 and performance pledges of FSD.

8. Mr AU Lap-sing said that he had worked closely with FSD since he joined the Southern District Fire Safety Committee (SDFSC) four years ago, and was glad to see that FSD had been paying more attention to public education and publicity on fire prevention, which contributed to the drastic decrease in the number of fire breakouts. He opined that when fire broke out in Wah Fu Estate and Wong Chuk Hang industrial area, if FSD could promptly dispatch staff to the neighbourhood to promote the messages on fire prevention on the following day, it could effectively enhance public awareness on fire safety. He also pointed out that many property owners had sub-divided or altered the layout of their flats, such as removing the fire resisting wall of the kitchen, creating potential risk to the occupants, and asked whether FSD would step up inspection, education and publicity in this regard.

9. Mr Paul ZIMMERMAN appreciated the work of FSD. Nevertheless, he commented that as this was a meeting with SDC, D of FS should include information concerning the Southern District in his presentation, such as the number of fire incidents, district-specific services in recent years, district-specific data on fire prevention and fire-fighting, and the operation and manpower of fire-fighting teams in the sub-districts, instead of giving a general account of territory-wide information. Also, he opined that the funding from the Government to FSD was insufficient, and wished to know what was the plan of FSD to ask for more resources. Citing the North Point Fire Station as an example, the staff used the pier to park their vehicles, which showed that the existing facilities of the fire station were inadequate to meet the requirement. He wanted to know FSD's plans to upgrade fire station facilities in the Southern District, and whether SDC's support was needed to secure sufficient resources for procuring proper fire-fighting equipment and facilities.

10. Mr CHAN Fu-ming, MH pointed out that Aberdeen was the largest fishing harbour in Hong Kong with a large number of fishing vessels mooring in the typhoon shelter, and the number of which would soar during the fish moratorium and Lunar New Year. In mid-2012, two fires had broken out on the fishing vessels in the Aberdeen Typhoon Shelter and two vessels were completely destroyed in the fire. These incidents had reminded him of the tragedy of the fire at Jumbo Seafood Floating Restaurant many years ago which burned down many fishing vessels linked up together. At that time, although the fireboats were quick to arrive at the scene, it was difficult to put out the fire because any maneuver would take the fireboats away from the scene. In this connection, he asked if the current fire-fighting equipment of the fireboats had been improved, and if a similar case happened, could the fireboats be held stationary for fire-fighting operation. Moreover, in case a fire broke out on vessels connecting to each other, did FSD have special rescue measures to tackle the situation, such as cutting off the cable promptly to separate the vessel on fire from others.

11. Mr TSUI Yuen-wa said that recently SDC had discussed the possibility of retaining the premises of the Aberdeen Fire Station (AFS) at Wong Chuk Hang for the use of other departments or organisations after the relocation of the fire station, however, FSD's reply was very disappointing. He pointed out that SDC had put forward the above proposal to the department concerned in March 2012, and various departments had given their replies, yet the reply of FSD was just a few lines repeating the contents of the paper, which had no reference value at all. He raised the enquiry to FSD again in June 2012, and got the reply that FSD had liaised with the Architectural Services Department (Arch SD) on when the tender exercise for demolition of the premises concerned would be initiated, and said that any delay in the demolition works might cause the contractor to claim for compensation. He opined that FSD should have explained the situation in its reply three months ago so that SDC and other government departments could follow up on this matter in a timely and appropriate manner. He believed that if not for D of FS to join this meeting, FSD would not provide concrete information in June 2012 despite the repeated enquiry from Members. He understood that FSD might need to consider a number of factors such as financial implications, fund application procedure of the Legislative Council (LegCo), extra administrative work, still it should state clearly the considerations in its reply so that SDC could have the details for further consideration. He continued that FSD emphasised in its briefing that strengthening community relations was one of its important work targets, yet this case just showed the serious

lack of communication between FSD and SDC. Therefore, he wished that D of FS could step up its efforts in monitoring its internal administration. Lastly, noting that Arch SD had yet approved the demolition application, he enquired whether FSD would continue to request Arch SD to expedite the approval process for the demolition, or negotiate with other government departments to work out a more proper solution after hearing the views of SDC.

12. Ms CHEUNG Sik-yung said that as the chairlady of a working group under SDFSC in the past few years, she understood that FSD would respond to each fire call promptly, and organise education and publicity activities on fire safety on the following day to arouse fire precaution awareness amongst residents. She commended the support of the Fire Safety Ambassador Honorary Presidents Association and the Fire Safety Ambassadors to SDFSC in implementing fire safety campaigns, and asked whether the number of fire calls in the Southern District was less than those of other districts. In addition, she was concerned that many private properties and single-block buildings in the Southern District needed to improve the fire service installation and equipment of their premises according to the Fire Safety (Buildings) Ordinance (Cap. 572), but many property owners and owners' corporations did not fully understand the requirements of FSD. In this regard, she requested FSD to provide more support to owners and owners' corporations so as to help them upgrade fire service installation and equipment to comply with relevant legislation.

13. Mr AU Nok-hin said that normally FSD and the Buildings Department (BD) were involved in the enhancement on building safety requirements, but the demarcation of their authorities and responsibilities was not always very clear-cut. He shared a case with Members in which BD had strictly required an owner/occupant to install a triple smoke lobby door at a ventilated but not enclosed area. During the discussion, FSD understood the views of the owner/occupant, but owing to the different requirements of the departments concerned, eventually FSD decided that the owner/occupant should comply with the more stringent requirements. As such, he asked how FSD would determine the authorities and responsibilities of respective departments, and whether the departments concerned could negotiate if any discrepancies occurred instead of just adopting the more conservative requirements.

14. Mr LO Kin-hei was concerned that so far FSD had not given a positive reply to the request of many firefighters for a 48-hour working week. He asked FSD if the

lack of response was due to resources constraints such as difficulty in recruitment or insufficient funding. He opined that if resources permitted, the general public and the LegCo would be willing to support additional resources for FSD to increase manpower and upgrade its facilities, so that firefighters could protect the lives and property of the general public under a decent working environment.

15. Mr CHAI Man-hon pointed out that SDC had discussed the relocation of AFS in 2008, and urged the department concerned to make land use plan for the vacant site as early as possible to avoid waste of resources. However, to date the Government still had no specific planning for the site which showed a lack of coordination amongst various departments. The Government had on the one hand, urged for more local views on this matter, and on the other hand, paid no attention to the views of local community. He found this practice of “selective listening” very disappointing. This procrastination of planning for the vacant site made people suspected that the Government might already have planned to put the site on sale, or even rezone the site for industrial/commercial use. He requested FSD or the Home Affairs Department (HAD) to explain the land use planning for the vacant site.

16. Dr LIU Hong-fai said that regarding the performance pledges of FSD in the briefing, D of FS had mentioned that response times of fire engines and ambulances were six and 12 minutes respectively. He asked when such performance targets were set and why the response time of a fire engine doubled that of an ambulance. Also, in the briefing it was mentioned that the new protection gear for firefighters could resist up to 1 000 °C, he would like to know for how long the protection gear could stand such high temperature.

17. Mr YEUNG Wai-foon, MH, JP commended the consistent superb performance of FSD for all these years. Regarding the upgrading of fire service installation and equipment of old tenement buildings, he pointed out that some owners/occupants reflected the difficulties in meeting the requirements of FSD, for instance, the installation of a fire service water tank of a prescribed capacity in the six- or seven-storey old tenement buildings. He wished that FSD could handle these cases flexibly. Also, recent media reports said that the specification of the mobile devices used by FSD’s frontline staff was not satisfactory, and he would like to know the latest development. On the 12-minute response time of ambulance as mentioned in the briefing, he asked whether this standard also applied to ambulance motorcycle which would be dispatched before an ambulance. Lastly, he wished to

know the progress of the new fire station at Nam Fung Road, including its target commissioning date and whether a visit would be arranged for SDC Members.

18. Mrs CHAN LEE Pui-ying commended the achievements of FSD in its education and publicity campaigns on fire safety in recent years, and suggested that telephone numbers of related property management offices could be printed on the FSD's publicity materials for distribution to residents, so that residents could call the management offices concerned for enquiry or help in case they suspected that a fire had broken out.

19. The Chairman invited Mr CHAN Chor-kam to respond to Members' views.

20. Mr CHAN Chor-kam gave a consolidated response as follows:

Education and Publicity for Fire Prevention

After a fire incident, FSD would, capitalising on the opportunity of a fresh memory amongst residents, join forces with district fire safety committee members and Fire Safety Ambassadors to conduct a fire safety publicity activity namely "hot strike" to disseminate the messages of fire safety to the neighbourhood, which turned out to be more effective. FSD would continue to step up education and publicity work in this respect.

Fire Protection Facilities for Buildings

There were two types of fire protection facilities for buildings, namely fire safety construction (FSC) and fire service installation (FSI). Kitchen wall and kitchen doors were FSC, which should not be altered or removed. In case alterations to FSC were needed, an application should be made through a qualified professional. As for the fire safety in commercial premises, FSD and BD would work together closely and case officers from both departments would conduct joint inspections and coordinate with each other in issuing Fire Safety Directions (FS Directions) which specified the FSC and FSI requirements for premises. As for the case of triple smoke lobby doors mentioned by a Member, this might be due to the special layout of the premises concerned, and as a matter of fact, fire safety requirements would depend on the design and construction of respective building/premises.

Information about the Southern District

This briefing aimed at giving an overview of the services of FSD, so district-specific information was not included. He understood that Members wished to know more about the situation and related statistical figures concerning the Southern District. He promised to provide such information for Members' reference after the meeting.

Resources Allocation of FSD

Every year, the Government would provide sufficient funds to FSD for meeting its operating expenditures. To cope with its operational needs, FSD would also apply for extra resources according to an established mechanism if necessary. FSD would follow up with the Planning Department on the planned use of the pier of North Point Fire Station.

Marine Fire-fighting

FSD had a special procedure for marine fire-fighting operation, and apart from deploying fireboats, land-based fire-fighting crews would also be dispatched to give support on board or at the waterfront. FSD would timely replace the fireboats in its fleet and keep on upgrading its cruising speed, operating maneuverability and fire-fighting and rescue equipment as well. At present, the "Fireboat 4" berthed at the Aberdeen Typhoon Shelter was of high operational efficiency. On top of steering the fireboat in reverse to counter the set-and-drift effect of current, the water monitor on deck could also help stabilize the fireboat in turbulent water. During the fish moratorium, FSD would step up publicity on fire prevention amongst dwellers in the typhoon shelter, and Fire Safety Ambassadors would board the fireboat to help distribute fire safety leaflets with an aim to promoting fishermen's awareness on fire prevention. In case of a vessel fire broken out, apart from cutting off the rope connecting the vessels, the firefighters would also try to control the fire spread, and deploy the inflatable boat on fireboat to assist in the operation.

Aberdeen Fire Station (AFS) in Wong Chuk Hang

In 2008, FSD had consulted SDC on the relocation of AFS, and the relocation plan at that time had already included the construction of a new fire station and demolition of the existing one. From the replies of relevant departments to SDC, there was no department putting forward a specific land use plan for the said site, so FSD had to stick to its original plan to demolish the existing premises and surrender the vacant site to the Lands Department according to the established procedure.

Measures to improve Fire Safety for Old Tenement Buildings

FSD had a number of measures to help owners/occupants upgrade FSI, and also case officers would assist the owners/occupants in setting up owners' corporations through district offices. FSD and BD would jointly issue FS Directions and send staff to the meetings of owners/occupants to explain the contents of the directions. Given the structural or spatial constraints in old tenement buildings, FSD would adopt a flexible and pragmatic approach in considering the fire safety requirements of individual cases without compromising fire safety. For instance, FSD would not rigidly require the owners of six- or seven-storey buildings to install a 9 000 litres fire service water tank so as to avoid increasing the loading of the building structure, and in some cases, a common water tank with sufficient capacity for fire safety and flushing purposes was permitted. In some buildings that there was not enough room at the staircases for a standard hose reel, FSD would permit a hose reel with a shorter hose to be installed at an overhead position to avoid obstructing the means of escape. Also, the Government had provided various financial assistance schemes such as loans and grants for the owners/occupants, and such information would be issued together with the FS Directions for their reference. Generally, the owners/occupants were required to complete the improvement works within 12 months from the issuing date of the directions, and FSD staff would monitor the progress. If sufficient justification was provided, FSD would, at its discretion, approve the extension of the deadline, so that the owners/occupants concerned could have sufficient time to complete the improvement works.

Manpower Resources Allocation

Regarding the request from FSD staff for uniform conditioned working hours as mentioned by a Member, FSD reiterated that there was no uniform conditioned hours of work in the civil service and the specific conditioned working hours were laid down for different grades of civil servants according to the operational requirements and job nature of the departments. FSD was open to the request of some staff members for reduction of weekly working hours. However, the reduction should satisfy the three principles of 'cost neutrality', 'no additional manpower' and 'maintaining the same level of service to the public'. Therefore, it was not easy for FSD to achieve the said targets. FSD all along had been discussing the matter with its staff and representatives from the FSD Staff General Association and had proposed various options for consultation with the staff side. FSD would continue discussion with the staff association on all feasible proposals satisfying the three principles. It was hoped that a new option could be put forward for further consultation by mid-September 2012.

Fire-fighting Equipment

The current fire-fighting equipment of FSD was comparable to the advanced cities around the world. As for the fire-fighting protective suit mentioned in the briefing, it could withstand a high temperature up to 1 000 °C for 10 seconds. In a normal fire ground, a human body could stand about 60 to 100 °C, and the new fire-fighting protective suit could resist a high temperature up to 1 000 °C. Its purpose was to allow firefighters to evacuate the scene in case of emergency situations like flashover which generated extremely high temperature that lasted for a very short time. The prime function of the new protective suit was not to allow the firefighters to have a long stay in an environment of extremely high temperature. FSD would review its existing fire-fighting equipment from time to time, and would apply for government funding to upgrade the equipment according to the established mechanism if necessary.

Performance Pledge of Fire Services Department

FSD pledged that fire appliances and ambulances would respond to emergency calls and arrive at the scene within six and 12 minutes respectively. This performance was in line with international standards.

The six-minute response time of fire appliances included one minute for deployment, four minutes for traveling and one minute for water connection; while the 12-minute response time of ambulance included one to two minutes for deployment and 10 minutes for traveling. Although these performance targets had been in place since 1995, FSD still reviewed them from time to time to ensure a highly efficient service. Considering that immediate medical treatment for some patients was extremely important, FSD had already procured 35 ambulance motorcycle for the ambulance fleet. In case of emergency, an ambulance motorcycle would be dispatched to the scene first, since the staff of the ambulance motorcycles had acquired the Emergency Medical Assistant II qualification, they could treat the patients at the scene expeditiously. In addition, to further enhance its service quality, FSD had launched the “First Responder Programme” in 2003, targeting to train up 5 000 firefighters as first responders so that they could provide prompt basic life support to casualties/patients in need. In the past, FSD had provided first responder service in the Southern District, and from 2009 till now around 40 cases in which first responders had treated patients with cardiac defibrillators were recorded.

Enhancing Public Awareness on Fire Precaution

FSD thanked SDFSC and the Fire Safety Ambassador Honorary Presidents Association for organising various publicity campaigns on fire safety in the Southern District, which had helped spread fire safety messages to residents effectively. In 2010, there were 1 836 fire calls in the Southern District and the figure had dropped to 1 316 in 2011, which showed that the education and publicity efforts on fire safety had been very effective. In 2012, FSD had launched a new TV commercial with key messages to educate occupants of tenement buildings what to do in case of fire, in short, residents should bring three objects along with them during the evacuation, including a cell phone, keys of their apartments and a wet towel. The cell phone could be used for dialing 999 for help and inform the Police/FS of their location; the keys be used for re-entering their apartments in case they found out that the staircase(s) were smoke-filled where they could not access and the wet towel be used to avoid inhaling smoke so that they could sustain a longer period of time while awaiting rescue. Also, since there was only one telephone in the management office generally, occupants might not be able to get through by

phone in case of fire, or the caretaker might go to investigate after receiving a fire report and was unable to answer any calls, therefore it would be the best for occupants to call 999 in case a fire broke out.

(Dr YANG Mo, PhD joined the meeting at 3:54 p.m.)

21. The Chairman invited Members to start the second round of speaking.
22. Mr CHAI Man-hon said that in discussing the demolition of the AFS in 2008, the premise of SDC was that the Government should provide a clear land use planning for the vacant site to avoid wasting the land and public resources. As D of FS had said, it was not necessary to demolish the fire station and the premises could be retained if there was a department willing to take over the site. However, in the end, there was no department willing to help interested organisations secure the site. The action of the department concerned made people suspicious that the Government ignored the local views because it had intended to auction and rezone the site in order to make more money. He was disappointed that there was no department willing to act as a coordinator, and the existing fire station had to be demolished eventually. He asked whether FSD could postpone the demolition schedule if an organisation was willing to take over the premises, so that SDC and the departments concerned could have more time to work out future arrangements.
23. Mr LO Kin-hei opined that the “principle of three nos” was ridiculous, and it was unrealistic for the Government to think it could gain more without paying anything. If FSD agreed that the long working hours of its staff was an issue to be dealt with, it should deploy more resources for improvement. In many cases, it was difficult to sort things out without injecting additional resources.
24. Mr Paul ZIMMERMAN requested FSD to provide the annual statistical figures of service calls by various categories and the data on the performance of FSD’s work in the Southern District. He also wished to know what resources had been allocated to the Southern District and any plans for future development. He said that if such information could be provided to all District Councils (DCs) annually, it could enable DCs to better understand the work of FSD.
25. Mr CHAN Chor-kam responded that land use planning was not under the purview of FSD, and claim for compensation might be resulted from the

postponement of demolition works. In the consultation exercise with SDC in 2008 and its recent reply to Members' enquiries, FSD had made it clear that the contract signed between the works consultant and the Government had included demolition of the premises, and retaining the premises would also involve additional recurrent expenditure for repair and maintenance. As for the "three principles", it was an established policy of the Government, which all government departments should comply with when considering adjustment in the number of working hours. Lastly, FSD would provide last year's statistical figures concerning the Southern District after the meeting.

26. Mr FUNG Wai-kwong would like FSD to confirm the exact date when the supplementary information would be provided.

27. Mr CHAN Chor-kam replied that hopefully the information could be provided within three weeks.

[Post-meeting note: The statistical data had been e-mailed to Members on 9 August 2012 for reference.]

28. Ms CHEUNG Sik-yung said that SDFSC had also kept such information, and Members could obtain a copy from the Secretary of SDFSC if necessary.

29. The Chairman thanked Mr CHAN Chor-kam said the three FSD representatives for joining the meeting. He announced a recess of three minutes.

(Mr CHAN Chor-kam, Mr LAU Sing-wah, Mr LEUNG Yiu-wah and Mr SUEN Wai-cheong left the meeting at 4:01 p.m.)

**Agenda Item 2: Confirmation of the draft minutes of the 4th SDC meeting held on
17 May 2012
[4:05 p.m. - 4:06 p.m.]**

30. The Chairman said that prior to the meeting, the draft minutes had been circulated to Members and related government representatives, and the Secretariat had not received any amendment proposals so far.

31. The Chairman enquired if Members approved the minutes of the 4th SDC meeting.

32. SDC confirmed the minutes of the 4th SDC meeting.

Agenda Item 3: Matters Arising
(SDC Paper No. 68/2012)
[4:06 p.m. - 4:14 p.m.]

33. The Chairman invited Members to note the contents of the paper. He advised that the work targets of the current-term of SDC had been recently confirmed by circulation of papers and the final version had been e-mailed to all Members. The Secretariat had uploaded all the presumption papers including the work targets onto SDC website.

34. The Chairman invited the Secretary to report the progress on setting up a database containing all SDC papers for Members to download as proposed by Mr Paul ZIMMERMAN previously.

35. The Secretary reported that HAD had approved the proposal and permitted the Secretariat to directly contact HAD's approved service providers for the procurement of online filing service, but the expenses incurred would be paid by SDC. According to the quotations received, the monthly rental for online server space at 300M RAM, 1GB RAM and 4GB RAM were \$100, \$250 and \$500 respectively. Considering that SDC papers had already been uploaded onto SDC website, there was no need to upload them again onto the new server, so it was proposed that a first six-month contract for server space at 1GB RAM would be procured for storing supplementary information from government departments and information provided to Members by other government departments after meeting. Since the contract period was six months only, the server capacity requirement could be expanded upon contract renewal if necessary. SDC had originally reserved funding for the routine upgrading and maintenance of SDC website, it was expected that the amount would be enough for the server rental. Subject to Members' approval, the Secretariat would proceed with the service procurement.

36. The Chairman asked if Members agreed to the proposal on renting online server space at 1GB RAM with SDC funding for the time being.

37. SDC endorsed the proposal.

38. Mr Paul ZIMMERMAN reported on the construction of a new columbarium at the Chinese Christian Cemetery in Pokfulam. He said that the Hong Kong Chinese Christian Churches Union (HKCCCU) had held a preliminary meeting with some resident representatives and the Southern District Office (SDO) on 18 July 2012, and both sides agreed on a further meeting in mid-September in which HKCCCU could explain the project in detail. Before the misgivings of residents about the possible impacts of the construction project on traffic in the vicinity could be dissipated, part of the construction works would be put on hold. HKCCCU hoped that the Chairman of SDC or its committees could chair the meeting.

39. Mr Paul ZIMMERMAN continued that at the last meeting, SDC had requested the Transport and Housing Bureau (THB) for a reply on when the study on railway feeder service would be conducted, but so far no response had been received.

40. The Chairman responded that according to the normal practice, only consultation meeting organised by SDC would be chaired by the Chairman of SDC or its committees, e.g. the consultation meetings held by the South Island Line Focus Group previously. It was not appropriate for the Chairman of SDC or its committees to preside over meetings organised by other institutions or organisations. The resident consultation meetings held by the Mass Transit Railway Corporation (MTR Corp) at the request of owner/resident representatives from Sham Wan Towers and Lei Tung Estate were also chaired by MTR Corp, so HKCCCU should chair its own meeting.

41. The Secretary replied that the Secretariat had already reminded THB to provide the information as promised at the last meeting. However, THB responded that compiling such information took time, and they were unable to submit it before this meeting. Nevertheless, they promised to give a reply within a month. Upon receipt, the Secretariat would e-mail the requested information to Members.

(Post-meeting note: The reply of THB was e-mailed to Members on 24 July 2012.)

(Mr NG Tak-wing, Mr WAT Wai-ching, Mr CHAN Gin-wing, Ms Jackie CHOW, Mr Bernard WONG and Mr Wilfred YEUNG joined the meeting at 5:14 p.m.)

**Agenda Item 4: Progress Report of the South Island Line (East) Scheme
(SDC Paper No. 69/2012)
[5:14 p.m. - 6:02 p.m.]**

42. The Chairman welcomed the following representatives from relevant government departments and the MTR Corporation Limited (MTR Corp) to the meeting:

- Mr NG Tak-wing, Chief Engineer/Railway Development 1-1, Highways Department (HyD)
- Mr WAT Wai-ching, Senior Engineer/South Island Line 1, HyD
- Mr CHAN Gin-wing, Senior Engineer/Priority Railway 3, Transport Department (TD)
- Ms Jackie CHOW, Public Relations Manager – Projects & Property, MTR Corp
- Mr Bernard WONG, Senior Liaison Engineer, MTR Corp
- Mr Wilfred YEUNG, Chief Architect, MTR Corp

43. The Chairman invited representatives of MTR Corp to give a progress report on the South Island Line (East) (SIL(E)) Scheme.

44. Mr Bernard WONG, with the aid of PowerPoint presentation (Reference Information - 2), reported on the progress of construction works, temporary traffic management scheme (TTMS) and blasting works. All in all, the progress of various project items was on schedule.

45. Ms Jackie CHOW, with the aid of PowerPoint presentation (Reference Information - 2), introduced the meetings of Community Liaison Groups (CLGs) and some community engagement activities. She reported that the sixth round of the meetings of the six CLGs had been held in May 2012. Besides, MTR Corp was going to organise a SIL(E) football match in August 2012 and invited SDC team to join the activity.

46. The Chairman reminded Members that this was a regular progress report on SIL(E) Scheme. If Members wished to follow up on and discuss the construction details, they should raise their questions at the meeting of relevant CLG or the Traffic and Transport Committee (T&TC). He invited Members to give views on sending a

SDC team to the football match.

47. Mr AU Lap-sing commented that on his way to Ocean Court on the day of meeting, he noticed that the traffic from Ocean Park Road roundabout in Wong Chuk Hang to the westbound lane outside Wong Chuk Hang Indoor Games Hall was very congested, and that the number of heavy construction vehicles and dump trucks traveling on the road section had been increased. He enquired if increasing number of heavy vehicles traveling on the road would be continued for a period and wished to know the daily number of heavy vehicles turning onto the construction sites at Ocean Park and Heung Yip Road from the Ocean Park Road roundabout.

48. Ms CHEUNG Sik-yung said the representatives of MTR Corp had mentioned that the TTMS at Ap Lei Chau Drive would be implemented for a year and then the previous arrangement would be resumed. She asked if this meant the traffic lane would be restored to its previous condition before works commencement. She felt that the CLG was but an empty shell, and though participated in the group, the views put forth by Members and local representatives were not followed up by MTR Corp and the company was not willing to make any commitments. The CLGs gave residents the impression that they were just a platform for reporting project progress and the views and suggestions raised at CLG meetings were not valued. At the T&TC meeting on 16 July 2012, she had asked HyD and LandsD why the staircases of the ex-Harbour Mission School (about three to four storeys high) adjacent to Sham Wan Towers were retained when the rest of the building had been demolished. On the other hand, MTR Corp revealed that the construction site would be restored to its original condition upon works completion and then surrendered to the Government. She would like to know if the currently leveled slope would be backfilled as well. She hoped MTR Corp could explain the actual condition after restoration at future progress report. Furthermore, regarding the construction of a lift tower by HyD at the location, she wanted to know the area of the pavement occupied by the facility.

49. Mrs MAK TSE How-ling asked whether MTR Corp had considered the suggestion on reserving a transfer platform at Wong Chuk Hang Station for the future South Island Line (West) (SIL(W)) she made jointly with Mr CHU Lap-wai at the last meeting. She pointed out that given the relatively large student population in the vicinity of St. Paul College, it was necessary to divert the nearby traffic. The tertiary institution to be built near Wah Fu Estate in future would increase people flow and traffic load in the locality, and it was believed that the loading would be further compounded by the inadequate number of parking spaces in the area of Wah Fu Estate. She maintained that to divert the traffic in Victoria Road, the construction of SIL(W)

was necessary.

50. Mr AU Nok-hin said that when working with MTR Corp on problems arising from the construction of SIL(E), he was getting a stronger and stronger feeling that MTR Corp did not make a real effort and was just trying to muddle through things. More than often, Members had to bargain with MTR Corp for a long time to get small results. He pointed out that in many cases, MTR Corp only wanted to attain the lowest requirements set by the Government, and would turn uncooperative whenever the local communities made additional requests or suggested modifications. Taking the cover on Lei Tung bus terminus raised by Members repeatedly at previously meetings as an example, it had to take several months and after a very painful bargaining process with MTR Corp to resolve the matter. Irrespective of big matters like bus stop cover or small matters like the construction vehicles parking along Ap Lei Chau Praya Road, MTR Corp would instantly deny responsibility upon receipt of complaints. It was until Members discovered the logos of MTR Corp and its contractors and took photos for proof then the guilty parties would apologise and take follow-up action. In respect of the traffic issues raised by Ms CHEUNG Sik-yung, he believed that if requests were made by local communities, MTR Corp should discuss and work with SDC to reflect residents' expectations to the Government and not just follow the rules and restore the site to its original status for surrender to the Government.

51. Mr LO Kin-hei agreed that difficulties indeed existed in communication with MTR Corp and that all things no matter big or small, MTR Corp would only communicate with SDC through Mr Bernard WONG. He appreciated the efforts made by Mr WONG and understood the heat he had to take from Members on the one side, and his bosses and other government departments on the other side. Right from the start of the railway construction, he had already requested that SDC Members should be allowed to join the site liaison group (SLG) so that local views and suggestions could be reflected and followed up more directly, efficiently and accurately. He questioned again if the SLG was such a closed and obscure body that Members were denied participation even after repeated request. He pointed out that if MTR Corp worried that the discussion of SLG was too difficult for Members to understand, Members would surely equip themselves and acquire the requisite knowledge so as not to hinder the process of meeting. He shared the views of Ms CHEUNG Sik-yung that it was meaningless to backfill the leveled slope. Lastly, he requested the regular department representative Miss AU YEUNG Yuet-wah to assess the current traffic flow around Ap Lei Chau to see if traffic had been improved as compared with the situation before the TTMS. If the situation had indeed improved,

TD should state clearly its position on this matter.

52. Mr Paul ZIMMERMAN said he had asked about the progress of tree planting at the Cyberport at every meeting and hoped MTR Corp could proactively report the latest development at every meeting. He further enquired the following matters: (a) whether the MTR Corp and/or TD monitor the performance of the interchanges and roundabouts affected by the implementation of TTMS; (b) if yes, whether the SDC could obtain reports of the survey data at each meeting to better understand the actual congestion situations; and (c) whether MTR Corp or TD or both were responsible for this monitoring.

53. Mr Bernard WONG gave a consolidated response as follows:

Monitoring traffic condition

MTR Corp collected and monitored traffic data daily. If the traffic conditions deteriorated, the consultant of MTR Corp would be asked to look into the problem and get snapshots of the traffic conditions, then discussed with relevant government departments to identify the problem and come up with suitable improvement measures. Further data-collection would be carried out after implementation of the improvement measures to confirm the effectiveness. The process is hence ad-hoc in nature without monthly regular reports or survey results.

Design in line with SIL(W)

The present design of SIL(E) had already made special provision to cope with the needs for interchange with SIL(W). MTR Corp would continue to engage in the extension plan of railway network in Hong Kong under the railway strategy of the Government.

Community liaison activities

MTR Corp had been striving to improve its community liaison and most of the requests raised during discussion with CLGs and SDC Members had been implemented one by one. However, implementation of SIL(E) involved a great many matters and the community liaison of MTR Corp did have room for improvement. Taking the bus stop at Lei Tung as an example, although MTR Corp had made its best efforts, coordination in

timing was still not very satisfactory. He wished Members could make allowance for it.

Temporary Traffic Management Scheme

Regarding the slope behind Sham Wan Towers which connected not only to the Towers but also part of the government land, it would be restored to its previous condition after the “cut-and-cover” construction work was completed. Since Sham Wan Towers were located at a higher level, if backfilling was not implemented, a relatively significant level difference would be created. T&TC had discussed this problem in its recent meeting. The tunnel structure under existing diverted road will need water proofing work at a later stage, so the diverted road cannot be used permanently. When the works was completed, the top of the tunnel will be at higher level. If a road is built on top of this section of the tunnel, the level difference between Ap Lei Chau Bridge Road and Ap Lei Chau Drive will increase. It was not clear if this was technically feasible without a detailed design. Subject to consensus among relevant departments on the usage of the site, MTR Corp would cooperate and explore solutions to resolve the level difference between the two connecting road surfaces.. According to the current arrangement, MTR Corp would restore the said road section to its previous condition after project completion and would build a slip road leading to Lei Tung Estate on Ap Lei Chau Bridge Road on the direction to Ap Lei Chau Drive.

Tree planting in Cyberport

MTR Corp had confirmed the final landscaping design with the Cyberport and it would be submitted to relevant department together with an application for tree removal. It was hoped that relevant department could approve the plan as soon as possible.

54. Mr NG Tak-wing supplemented that based on the views given at earlier SDC meetings, the Government had incorporated a slip road for vehicles making a left turn uphill at the junction of Ap Lei Chau Drive and Ap Lei Chau Bridge Road. As for the site of the ex-Harbour Mission School, MTR Corp had to take over the location for tunnel excavation works and would restore the site to its previous condition after project completion. According to PlanD, the site had been reserved for a specific purpose. If Members wished to make the TTMS permanent, TD would

need to further study the feasibility of the works design. He said that as the current traffic arrangement at the site was temporary in nature, its features including works design, turning radius and gradient were below the standard of permanent roads. He noted the suggestions of Members and would discuss with other departments on the feasibility of adopting the TTMS as permanent design.

55. Miss AU YEUNG Yuet-wah responded that she and colleagues at TD had been paying close attention to the daily traffic condition in the Southern District. She understood that traffic impacts and inconvenience to the neighbourhood were expected for major construction projects like railway construction. To minimise the impacts on local residents, enhanced coordination of works would be needed such as letting people know which road sections would be affected or what traffic diversion would be made before commencement of each project. Previously, stakeholders in local communities had actively expressed their views on the scheme, and TD, HyD and MTR Corp had been making every possible effort to coordinate their works. Regarding the views expressed by Members that the functions of CLGs fell short of expectations, she felt CLGs had achieved their purposes. All along, CLGs had been discussing the traffic diversion arrangements in various construction stages, during which, a lot of valuable views and suggestions had been given by Members. On public transport, CLGs had given advice on the service of green minibuses (GMB) and franchised buses during construction period, such as the impacts of road diversion on the affected GMB/bus routes. TD would evaluate if the bus delays resulted were within expectations, if not, remedial actions would be considered and taken to minimise the effects. She pointed out that railway construction had been moving forward vigorously in the Southern District and believed that there would be further opportunities for various stakeholders to closely coordinate and cooperate in future.

56. The Chairman invited Members for a second round of discussion on the matter.

57. Ms CHEUNG Sik-yung said that as Mr NG Tak-wing had said, she had noted the design of the proposed slip road on Ap Lei Chau Bridge Road in the meeting of the last-term SDC in March 2010. At that time, Members were all for the proposal but the point at this moment was MTR Corp and related departments failed to explain the detailed arrangements concerning the restoration of works site after project completion. As for the site near Sham Wan Towers earmarked for other purposes as mentioned by PlanD, SDC learned that the site would be used for building social welfare facilities at the meeting in May 2012. As a matter of fact, SDC did not object to the provision of such facilities, but only wanted to give views

on the future traffic arrangements at the location. For example, many drivers said that the traffic to Lei Tung Estate was much smoother now, so she wished related departments could consider residents' views to implement measures that could benefit and bring convenience to the general public.

58. Ms LAM Yuk-chun, MH asked if MTR Corp would restore the whole slope and its retaining wall and said that the restoration was a waste of time and money. She requested SDC to thoroughly discuss the restoration and long-term planning for the related road section and urged the departments concerned to provide detailed information on the future planned land use of the site. She pointed out that the crossroad on Ap Lei Chau provided connection for many places, and with road widening and appropriate traffic arrangements, it could benefit residents in Lei Tung Estate, Ap Lei Chau Estate and South Horizons.

59. The Chairman said that SDC could discuss with relevant departments on the traffic arrangements for the said location. However, to fulfill its contractual duties, MTR Corp had to implement the works according to the original plan. If there was no special direction from government departments, it was believed that MTR Corp could not change the plan by itself.

60. Dr YANG Mo, PhD opined that it seemed the TTMS was quite chaotic and there was still room for improvement. Also, it was very inconvenient for traffic from Pok Fu Lam to Ocean Court having to make a turn at Sham Wan Towers. He asked whether a roundabout could be provided in the mid-way.

61. Mr Paul ZIMMERMAN said that MTR Corp had not responded to the enquiries he just raised concerning whether MTR Corp or TD was responsible for monitoring the effectiveness of the operation of the interchanges and roundabouts after the implementation of the TTMS; and also whether the assessment report or data of the monitoring (such as on traffic congestions) would be incorporated in the regular report submitted to SDC. He further shared his experience in urging MTR Corp and TD to implement permanent improvements of a junction which would be improved temporarily under a TTMS by MTRC in Pok Fu Lam. He said that it was by no means an easy task. Finally, it was agreed that MTR Corp would be responsible for the TTMS while TD be responsible for permanent junction improvement. For the situation at Sham Wan Towers he suggested that local residents and SDC should make it clear to the departments concerned that they wanted to grasp the MTR works as an opportunity to implement long-term traffic improvements. He urged the transport department to review the traffic condition at the location concerned and respond to the

expectations of local residents and SDC. He wished that SDC could confirm local needs with the department concerned as early as possible so that the permanent works could be completed soon and to avoid having to remove the slope again after the back-filling works had been completed, which was a waste of time and public resources, and a nuisance to residents and traffic.

62. Mr LO Kin-hei welcomed that the government departments were open to discuss and respond to Members' concerns. As for the vacant site near Sham Wan Towers, he opined that apart from traffic data, the department concerned should also consider local views in its planning. Also, he pointed out that MTR Corp had not yet responded to the question whether SLGs had shunned outsiders.

63. Mr AU Nok-hin suggested that after the department concerned had obtained further information from the Social Welfare Department (SWD) on what types of facilities to be built, SDC would then convene a meeting for all relevant departments with a view to formulating traffic improvement measures for the traffic interchange.

64. Mr LAM Kai-fai, MH opined that if discussion with the department concerned did not start as early as possible, MTR Corp would implement construction works according to the original plan, then it was too late for SDC to raise questions in case problems occurred in the project works. The implementation of uplifting works at Aberdeen waterfronts was just one of the examples. In the light of above, SDC should put forward its views on future construction projects in the Southern District in a timely manner and continue to closely monitor the situation as necessary. He suggested that SDC should make preparation beforehand, and start negotiating with MTR Corp and relevant departments on how to capitalise on the opportunity to improve the traffic conditions at Ap Lei Chau in the long run.

65. Mrs CHAN LEE Pui-ying reflected that there were not enough carparks at Ap Lei Chau, and if provision of more parking spaces could be included in the planning, this could help divert the traffic flow at Ap Lei Chau. She supported the views of Mrs MAK TSE How-ling that the construction of SIL(W) could enable more residents in the Southern District to enjoy railway service, which could in turn help relieve traffic congestions in the district.

66. Mr FUNG Wai-kwong wished that relevant government departments such as PlanD could explain the land use plan and provide detailed information on the site concerned to help SDC better understand the details and put forward informed recommendations.

67. The Chairman invited Mr Bernard WONG to give a response.

68. Mr Bernard WONG gave a consolidated response as follows:

- Regarding the slope restoration, MTR Corp would cooperate with the department concerned when a consensus was reached;
- MTR Corp was responsible for monitoring the traffic conditions of TTMS;
- SLG assumed a monitoring role, and its members included representatives from various government departments such as the Hong Kong Police Force, HyD and TD. MTR Corp would submit reports to explain the situation of individual cases if and when necessary. However, such reports would not be submitted to SLG on a regular basis. Inspection would be conducted only when a problem was identified and a special report would be submitted to SLG for reference and follow-up; and
- SLG was not open to SDC Members because the discussion involved many technical issues and its representatives would take community views into account in the discussion.

69. Mr Paul ZIMMERMAN said that SDC should request that the regular progress report of MTR Corp in future should include the report and data on the effectiveness of the operation of various interchanges and roundabouts under TTMS, in order to enable SDC to understand the actual situation.

70. The Chairman concluded that: (a) MTR Corp was invited to note the views of Mr Paul ZIMMERMAN; (b) regarding the planning of traffic facilities for Lei Tung section, the District Development and Environment Committee under SDC would invite relevant departments such as PlanD, LandsD and SWD for further discussion; and (c) SDC would invite Members to team up with the Southern District Football Team for joining the SIL(E) football match organised by MTR Corp.

71. The Chairman invited Mr Wilfred YEUNG to briefly introduce the station design for SIL(E).

72. Mr Wilfred YEUNG, with the aid of PowerPoint presentation (PowerPoint – 3 and 4), briefly introduced the themes, color schemes and materials of the stations, photomontages of the appearance of the station and viaduct and greening works, as well as the background and contents of the Public Art Programme.

73. The Chairman invited Members to give views on the station designs and

Public Art Programme.

74. Mr Paul ZIMMERMAN opined that the design of the Ocean Park Station was too square and inconsistent with the waves and motion associated with the ocean, so he suggested MTR Corp should re-consider its design. He also noted that the entire presentation of the designs failed to show any public seating inside or outside the stations, or in the park, but many passengers or residents often needed a seat for waiting or taking a rest, so he wished MTR Corp could install more seats inside and outside the stations. Moreover, the location of toilets was not indicated in the design plan. He asked MTR Corp to provide related information later on if the information was not available at the meeting. In addition, he requested MTR Corp to provide bicycle parking spaces at station exits.

75. Mr CHAI Man-hon requested MTR Corp to provide the station floor plans for Members' reference, which could show the locations of facilities such as toilets and seating more clearly. He opined that the photomontages provided by MTR Corp were presentable, which could enable Members to explain the design of SIL(E) stations to the public, however, floor plans could help Members and the public understand the actual layout of various facilities inside the stations. He also wished to know the arrangements for the interchange station, especially the public traffic interchange at Wong Chuk Hang Station. Citing the interchange arrangements at West Rail Line (WRL) and Light Rail (LR) as an example, he said that there were a number of support facilities such as train schedule display panel, the connection of WRL platforms to LR stations and the implementation of people flow control measures. As for the design of art works for stations, he wished that MTR Corp could step up its publicity efforts in the district, and invite local art groups to participate in the programme. Also, MTR Corp could identify more spaces inside the stations for showcasing the art works, so that local artists could have more opportunities to give play to their talents.

76. Mr YEUNG Wai-foon, MH, JP opined that it seemed the appearance of Ocean Park Station did not tie in with the theme of the Ocean Park, and asked whether it was still possible to revise the design. In addition, he asked whether people could enter the station directly from the footbridge of Lei Tung Station, such that it was not necessary for them to route via the shopping centre and then enter the station from ground level. On the other hand, the lift lobby of Exit B at Lei Tung Station should be more or less leveled up with the exit at Main Street, Ap Lei Chau, but neither information nor the design of the said exit was shown in the design plan. Also, he was concerned that many passengers would gather at the lift lobby, so would

like to know the floor area of the lobby.

77. Mr LAM Kai-fai, MH suggested that a cover should be provided for the footbridge connecting Ocean Park Station and the entrance of Ocean Park, so that passengers would not be exposed to sunshine and rain.

78. Mr FUNG Wai-kwong put forward the following proposals: (a) as it was expected that many passengers would use the public traffic interchange at Wong Chuk Hang Station for feeder service, he suggested that a cover should be provided over the interchange for the convenience of passengers, (b) as Ocean Park was one of the world-renowned landmarks in Hong Kong, special features such as display panels with special effects should be incorporated in the design of the Ocean Park Station; (c) to cope with the ageing population of Hong Kong, it was suggested that lifts and elevators should be provided at each station for people in need; and (d) since there would be heavier people flow at Admiralty Station and Wong Chuk Hang Station, it was suggested that reference should be made to the arrangement at Central Station under which an outdoor giant screen was installed outside the exit of World-Wide House for release of information and publicity.

79. Mr CHU Lap-wai said that regarding the suggestion of providing a cover for the footbridge outside Ocean Park Station, recently MTR Corp had replied that since inside the Park was on open ground, after discussing with Ocean Park, it was decided that an open air design should be adopted. However, for the benefit of the public, he wished that MTR Corp could reconsider the proposal.

80. Mr TSUI Yuen-wa raised the following comments: (a) it was suggested that the footbridge outside Ocean Park should be widened to cope with the tremendous people flow leaving the Park; (b) as he knew, there should be a footbridge connecting Ap Lei Chau Estate and the South Horizons Station, which was not shown in the design plan. He requested MTR Corp to supplement the information later on; (c) there should be a noise barrier at the road section near Tung Wah Group of Hospitals (TWGHs) Jockey Club Rehabilitation Complex, which was also missing in the design plan. He requested MTR Corp to clarify the matter and advise the length of the noise barrier at the road section concerned; (d) MTR Corp had promised to construct a pet garden outside Wong Chuk Hang Station but the design of which was also missing in the presentation. He asked MTR Corp to provide the related information; (e) as the walkway between Wong Chuk Hang Station and Ocean Court was under the railway, there might not be sufficient illumination and few people would use the road section, which might cause potential crime risk. He asked MTR Corp to pay due

attention to this matter; and (f) since the construction of the pedestrian pathway was initiated by SDC, he wished that the walkway could be named “District Council Path”.

81. Mr LO Kin-hei asked whether the color scheme for each station had been finalised, and which color would be assigned to SIL on the railway map. He agreed to the views of Mr CHAI Man-hon and requested MTR Corp to provide the station floor plans for Members’ reference. In addition, he suggested that the SDC logo should be displayed outside the Ocean Park Station, and requested MTR Corp to add artistic seating and provide advertising billboards for use as SDC notice board.

82. Mr LAM Yuk-chun, MH supported Mr Paul ZIMMERMAN’s proposal to provide seating within the area of MTR railway station. She also suggested that the more vibrant elements should be incorporated in the design of Ocean Park Station in order to tie in with the image of the Park. In addition, she requested MTR Corp to provide the design plan for the Exit B at Ap Lei Chau Estate and related footbridge.

83. Ms CHEUNG Sik-yung was concerned about the people flow control arrangements at the lift lobby of Exit B at Lei Tung Station, and requested MTR Corp to provide the design plan for the emergency lift facility at the said exit.

84. The Chairman invited the representatives from MTR Corp to respond to the comments and enquiries of Members.

85. Mr Wilfred YEUNG and Mr Bernard WONG gave a consolidated reply as follows:

Seating, toilets and motorcycle parking spaces

Although seating was not shown in the design plan, actually seating was provided inside the stations and on the platforms. According to the latest design standard, the number of seats available on platform would be more than that of the past. Safety was MTR Corp’s prime concern in seating design, and the Fire Services Department and the Buildings Department might not approve seat design with potential risk, hence it could be difficult to have a variety of seats in different stations. From the operation perspective, MTR Corp would like to adopt a consistent design for the seats to facilitate long term maintenance. Similarly, toilets were provided at each SIL(E) station although they were not shown in the presentation images.

As for the provision of bicycle parking spaces outside station, MTR Corp was unable to give an immediate answer as it involved more issues.

Station floor plans

Normally, station floor plans would not be disclosed to the general public, however, to address Members' concerns, MTR Corp will look into the possibility of providing the related information.

Color schemes for stations

SIL(E) would be in a light green color on the MTR railway map. In selecting the color schemes of individual stations, in principle the color scheme of a station should not be very close to that of the adjoining stations. Since yellow, blue and green colors had been adopted for Wong Chuk Hang Station, Ocean Park Station and South Horizons Station respectively, the colors available to Lei Tung Station would be red, purple and orange generally. Considering that red color was generally used for main stations such as Central Station and Mongkok Station, MTR Corp opined that this color was too strong for a community station, hence, orange color was chosen for Lei Tung Station. Acknowledging that colour is very subjective, he wished SDC could inform MTR Corp the preferred color scheme within one month if Members had strong opinions on the color selection. Moreover, since MTR Corp had already signed contracts for some construction projects work, and the terms and conditions of the contracts were formulated with respect to the design just presented. Changes in color scheme may have contractual implications. He hoped that Members could understand the situation.

Public Art Programme

MTR Corp would step up publicity for the Public Art Programme, and would work with local organisations in implementing the project. The Hong Kong Youth Arts Foundation (HKYAF) would start liaising with various art organisations later on. MTR Corp would also remind HKYAF to cooperate more with art groups in the district. Also, MTR Corp would further study whether more locations could be identified for showcasing art works. The floor area of SIL(E) stations was relatively small, and it had to accommodate all the basic station facilities such as ticketing machines and

signages just like other existing stations, so the space and wall area available would be relatively limited. Nevertheless, MTR Corp would further study whether there was still room for improvement.

Ocean Park Station

At the beginning, MTR Corp and design consultant had studied circular or wave-shape design. However, the design consultant advised that a simple layout would be more eye-catching and could stand the test of time, while complicated shapes would cause visual confusion. MTR Corp would reflect Members' view to the consultant and further study whether improvements such as lighting effect could be made.

MTR Corp had discussed the provision of a cover over the footbridge with Ocean Park. As a matter of fact, it was not the first time for MTR Corp to build a theme park station, and the same problems occurred during the construction of the Disneyland Resort Station. The Disneyland was located quite far away from the station and similarly an open air design was adopted for the pathway. The Disneyland felt that visitors would bring their own umbrellas if necessary, and even if a cover was provided for the pathway, visitors still had to be exposed to sunshine and rain because most of the theme park was on open ground. The Ocean Park thought the same. As many attractions in the Park were outdoor ones, it was expected that when raining, the number of visitors would decrease while those who came would bring their own umbrellas. As such, the Park opined that there was no need for a covered footbridge.

MTR Corp had made a detailed study on the width of the footbridge and confirmed that it could cope with the people flow. As a Member had said, the actual occupancy of each train car would not be too high, visitors coming in batches during daytime should not burden the footbridge, and the width of the footbridge should be able to cope with the great people flow when many visitors left the park in the evening,

It was expected that the SDC logo would not be displayed outside Ocean Park Station to avoid confusing the visitors.

Wong Chuk Hang Station

MTR Corp would report to SDC on the progress of the public traffic interchange in November 2012. The installation of a noise barrier on the viaduct opposite to TWGHs Jockey Club Rehabilitation Complex was on schedule with part of the viaduct fully enclosed while the rest semi-enclosed. The design of the viaduct pier had already made provision for the future installation of noise barriers. The pet garden would be constructed near Ocean Court under the viaduct, people could walk along the walkway beside the open nullah opposite to Ocean Court, and then cross the footbridge to reach Ocean Court. Since the viaduct was narrower than the ones commonly found in other railway lines, coupled with the width of the open nullah at its side, there should be sufficient illumination. If SDC would like to name the road section concerned or the pet garden, MTR Corp might consider a naming contest.

Lei Tung Station

The interchange at the exit of Lei Tung Station was on ground level instead of on the footbridge. In designing the lift lobby of Entrance B, MTR Corp had reserved sufficient space to cope with people flow. The lift had a passenger capacity of 22 persons. It was anticipated that the number of people in the lift lobby during peak hours would be equal to about two loads of passengers, so the area of the lobby should be sufficient to accommodate the passengers. Residents could use the Fireman's Lift at Entrance A to directly go to Main Street, Ap Lei Chau from Ap Lei Chau Bridge Road.

South Horizons Station

Entrance A of South Horizons Station was closest to Ap Lei Chau Estate, and its appearance was similar to that of Entrance B. Entrance A was located at the entrance of Marina Square East Centre facing Ap Lei Chau Estate, and not far away would be the footbridge to be built connecting Ap Lei Chau Estate and South Horizons Station. The relevant CLG had discussed the design of the footbridge at its recent meeting, and its appearance was similar to those connecting several commercial buildings in Central, while the area near the school would be enclosed to avoid pedestrians peeping through.

Other station facilities

According to the latest standards for newly-built stations, all elevators would be provided for both upward and downward directions.

For the time being, MTR Corp had no plan to install a giant screen on the external wall of the stations. Normally giant screen was used for advertising, and therefore MTR Corp had no such plans.

As usual, MTR Corp would install a notice board of around A2 size beside the entrance of each station for community use. In general, applications would be entertained on a first-come-first-served basis and the new stations would adopt this practice. Local organisations could submit applications to MTR Corp for the use of notice board.

86. The Chairman invited Members to start the last round of speaking.
87. Mr Paul ZIMMERMAN requested MTR Corp and TD to provide a floor plan showing the walking routes between Ocean Park Station and Ocean Court (including footpaths at ground level, elevated connections and MTR properties along the way) . He said that he had made the same request a few months ago and hoped MTR Corp could provide the requested information after the meeting for SDC's reference.
88. Mr LAM Kai-fai, MH said that it was nothing wrong for MTR Corp to expect its visitors to prepare for their tour in the Park. However, if it started to rain when they were leaving the Park, it would not be hard to imagine what the situation would like when many visitors rushing to the station. Hence, he wished that MTR Corp could think carefully based on the principle of "people-first". In addition, he requested MTR Corp to provide the design of the footbridge leading to Precious Blood Primary School (South Horizons) at Ap Lei Chau for the reference of residents of Ap Lei Chau Estate and South Horizons, so that people would not be kept in the dark when the design plan was finalised, because it was difficult to remedy the situation in case problems arose in future.
89. Regarding a cover over the footbridge of the Ocean Park Station, Mr AU Lap-sing wished that MTR Corp could respect the decision of the Ocean Park.
90. Mr Bernard WONG responded that: (a) the information concerning the

footpath as requested by Mr Paul ZIMMERMAN would be presented at the meeting in November 2012 along with the progress report of the public traffic interchange; (b) the design of the footbridge near the Precious Blood Primary School (South Horizons) would be presented at the next meeting; and (c) MTR Corp would discuss the provision of a covered footbridge at Ocean Park Station with the Ocean Park again.

91. The Chairman thanked the representatives of the departments concerned and MTR Corp for joining the meeting.

(Mr Wise CHOY, Mr LAU Shu-pui, Mr NG Tak-wing, Mr WAT Wai-ching, Mr CHAN Gin-wing, Ms Jackie CHOW, Mr Bernard WONG and Mr Wilfred YEUNG left the meeting at 6:02 p.m.)

Agenda Item 6: Revised Budget Application of SDC Funded Project: Football Training Programme for Southern District Teenagers (April to December 2012)
(SDC Paper No. 71/2012)
[6:02 p.m. - 6:08 p.m.]

92. The Chairman said that as the time spent on the last agenda item was longer than expected, while the representative from the local organisation came for agenda item 6 had been waited for quite some time, he proposed to discuss agenda item 6 first.

93. Members unanimously approved the proposal.

94. The Chairman invited Members to fill in the “Declaration of Interest for Project Financed by District Council Funds” in respect of this fund application and asked Members who needed to declare interest or withdraw from the meeting to raise their hands.

95. Mr WONG Ling-sun and Ms CHEUNG Sik-yung raised their hands.

96. The Chairman declared interest as the honorary president of the Southern District Youth Football Team.

(Mr CHAN Man-chun joined the meeting at 6:03 p.m.)

97. The Chairman welcomed Mr CHAN Man-chun, Vice-Chairman of the Southern District Recreation and Sports Association (SDRSA), to the meeting and invited him to briefly introduce the contents of the paper.

98. Mr CHAN Man-chun informed the meeting that the Southern District Football Team was promoted to First Division in 2012 football season and would become a professional football team supported by commercial sponsorship. Previously, SDC had endorsed allocation for launching two training programmes, that is, Football Training Programme for Southern District Teenagers and training programme for the district team. In the light of future ticket sales and commercial sponsorships, SDRSA wished to apply for a budget revision so that the amount originally reserved for the district team could be reallocated to strengthen training for the youth football teams. Moreover, with the promotion to First Division, SDRSA wished to upgrade the training by assigning a First Division footballer to help with the training for each of the five youth football teams (for the age groups of 10, 12, 14, 16 and 18), so additional coach fee was required. He stressed that the budget revision mainly involved reallocating the existing funding for the district team to the youth teams with the total amount of allocation remained unchanged.

99. The Chairman invited Members to raise enquiries and comments on the matter.

100. Mrs MAK TSE How-ling enquired about the number of participants under the football training programme for teenagers.

101. Mr CHAN Man-chun replied that the football training programme for teenagers aimed at identifying young talents for football teams representing the Southern District instead of a training programme for all. SDRSA would scout for young talents in respective age groups in the district and recommend them to the training programme. SDRSA had carried out several selection exercises in July 2012 and from among several hundred of participants, a total of 150 young players ranged from the age of 10 to 18 were chosen to form five 30-member teams according to their age groups.

102. The Chairman thanked Mr CHAN Man-chun for joining the meeting.

(Mr CHAN Man-chun left the meeting at 6:07 p.m.)

103. The Chairman enquired if Members supported the budget revision of SDRSA.

104. Mr LAM Kai-fai, MH expressed support to the revision.

105. Mrs MAK TSE How-ling expressed strong support to the budget revision and commented that assigning First Division footballers to assist in the training of younger echelons was a good move which could upgrade the skill of the youth football teams and promote football activities. She said that it would be ideal if the number of enrolment could be increased to 200 because with proper training, these young football players could not only represent the Southern District in football matches but also provide a pool of talents for other football teams.

106. In closing, the Chairman said that SDC endorsed the revised budget of SDRSA attached in the SDC paper.

Agenda Item 5: Organisation of Southern District Festival

(SDC Paper No. 70/2012)

[6:08 p.m. - 6:21 p.m.]

107. The Chairman said that normally, every SDC would organise a district festival during its term to promote local features and enhance the identity and sense of belonging of local residents and organisations to the district. Since tourism development played an important role in the Southern District, the last-term SDC had organised the “Southern District Tourism and Culture Festival” in 2010-2011 under the theme of “discovering the unique Southern District”. During the festival, 13 programmes with distinctive characteristics had been organised and the festival was a great success. Recognising the importance of pooling the efforts and resources of government departments and local organisations, SDC in the past would invite SDO and local organisations to co-organise or assist in organising related activities in order to make the district festival a success. As the objective of the “2010-2011 Southern District Tourism and Culture Festival” was to promote tourism and culture of the district, participation and sponsorships from local business sectors and organisations

were required. To allow greater flexibility in the course of procuring resources and seeking sponsorships, the last-term SDC had decided to set up an independent organising committee (OC) comprising local personalities and organisations for implementing the festival.

108. The Chairman pointed out that the discussion of this agenda item should mainly concern about the implementation date of the Southern District Festival (the Festival) and the need for forming an independent OC for taking forward the project. Given that 2014 marked the 65th National Day while 2015 the election year for DCs, it was proposed that the Festival in this term be organised in 2013, and that the practice of last-term SDC would be adopted i.e. to set up an independent OC comprising local personalities and organisations to organise and coordinate various activities in the Festival.

109. The Chairman invited Members to give their views on the matter.

110. Mr YEUNG Wai-foon, MH, JP commented that as the previous practice was proved satisfactory, it would be better to adopt the same arrangement and set up an independent OC to handle the related matters. He had no comment on the implementation date of the Festival.

111. Mr AU Lap-sing supported organising the Festival in 2013.

112. As Members had no further comment, the Chairman said that SDO would issue letters to invite Members and members of local communities to form the OC, and its chairman and principal officers would be elected by election at the 1st meeting. Afterwards, the OC might invite representatives from local organisations and enthusiastic supporters of community work to join the working groups under the OC as necessary.

113. The Chairman then invited Members to give views on the theme of the Festival and the types of programmes to be organised for the reference of the OC. He suggested that the work of the last-term SDC should be continued and Members could refer to the work targets set recently and put forward themes conducive to the branding of the Southern District, such as promoting historic buildings, literary trail, fisherman culture and traditional festivals in the district.

114. Mr CHAI Man-hon said that element of tourism should be an essential part of the theme and the main line of the Festival. To tie in with the commissioning of SIL(E) in 2015 and the completion of the uplifting works to promenades of Aberdeen Harbour, he suggested that the publicity of the Festival should also highlight the upcoming changes in the Southern District so as to give a preview of the future development in the district and a more definite timetable on various projects, which would be conducive to the creation of the Southern District brand.

115. Ms LAM Yuk-chun, MH supported the contents of the paper and suggested that culture and art should be included in the theme beside tourism.

116. Mr AU Lap-sing supported using tourism and culture as the theme and pointed out that the Tourism and Culture Festival in 2010-11 had received extensive recognition. He said that other than being a tourist hotspot, the Southern District could establish itself as a cultural district. Therefore, he supported including elements of tourism and culture in the Festival, as well as the preview of future development in the Southern District as suggested by Mr CHAI Man-hon.

117. The Chairman responded that Mr CHAI Man-hon's suggestion did not contradict the theme of tourism and culture. The uplifting works to promenades of Aberdeen Harbour was closely related to the promotion of tourism and could be featured in the publicity of the Festival.

118. In closing, the Chairman concluded that SDC would recommend the theme of tourism, culture and art to the OC for the Festival 2013. For better utilisation of resources, he proposed that the "Winter Fiesta 2013" would be the kick-off of the Festival. He understood that the event would be held from 7 to 9 February 2013 and the opening ceremony of the Festival could be carried out at the occasion. The OC would follow up on the detailed arrangements.

119. The Chairman asked the Secretary to prepare the financial arrangement for the Festival.

120. The Secretary said that since the activities of the Festival 2013 would go beyond the year, SDC could reserve funding in financial year (FY) 2012/13 and FY2013/14 respectively for the programmes and activities under the Festival. Having regard the funding allocation in this year, the overall budget and the fund

allocation of HAD, it was proposed that with reference to the arrangement in the “2010-2011 Southern District Tourism and Culture Festival”, the OC would be responsible for putting up festive lighting decorations so that they could complement the Festival, and the annual budget for this item would be \$500,000. She further recommended a provision of \$500,000 be reserved in FY2012/13 and a provision of \$2 million (including \$500,000 for festive lighting decorations) in FY2013/14 for the Festival.

121. The Secretary added that the financial support for the “2010-2011 Southern District Tourism and Culture Festival” was relatively ample. Besides the recurrent allocation, HAD had allocated some \$3.6 million under the “Vibrant People, Harmonious Community Activities Funds”, making the total funding for the district festival increase to \$5 million. Coupled with the \$1 million or more raised by the OC, the overall budget was about \$6 million which was more than enough for 13 programmes and activities. Not knowing if there would be special allocation for the Festival in this term, she shared the view of the Chairman and advised to dispense with a separate opening ceremony for the Festival. As for the preview of the future development in the Southern District, related exhibition could be arranged at the closing ceremony and messages would be disseminated throughout various programmes and activities under the Festival to remind participants of more new attractions to come in the Southern District.

122. The Chairman invited Members to raise enquiries or comments on the Secretary’s proposal.

123. Since there was no further comment from Members, the Chairman summed up the resolutions of SDC as follows: (a) an OC independent of SDC would be responsible for organising activities of the Festival 2013; (b) tourism, culture and art would be the theme of the Festival; (c) the opening ceremony of the Festival would be carried out at the same time with the kick-off ceremony of “Winter Fiesta 2013” on 7 February 2013; and (d) an allocation of \$500,000 and \$2 million would be reserved in FY2012/13 and FY2012/14 respectively for the Festival 2013.

Agenda Item 7: Another Other Business

[6:21 p.m. - 7:13 p.m.]

Exchange Visit of SDC to Shandong

124. The Chairman advised that SDC would organise a delegation to visit Shandong province between 16 and 21 October 2012 to meet and exchange views with local government authorities. The Secretariat had obtained quotations for the itinerary endorsed at the last SDC meeting. The updated itinerary was at Reference Paper-2.

125. The Chairman proposed to invite the following to join the delegation:

- Members of all committees and working groups under SDC (including co-opted members and advisors)
- Chairpersons of the four Southern District Area Committees (Mr CHAN Man-chun and Mr MAK Chi-yan were not SDC Members)
- Chairman of the Southern District Fight Crime Committee
- Chairman of the Southern District Committee on the Promotion of Civic Education

126. SDC endorsed the proposal.

127. The Chairman invited Mr LAM Kai-fai, MH, Secretary General of the delegation, to report on the latest progress of the exchange visit.

128. Mr LAM Kai-fai, MH said that the itinerary was full and varied including visit to the cities of Jilan and Qufu, and a trip to Mount Tai Shan. Also the delegation would go to see the fossils of dinosaurs and attend the Kite Flying Festival. The last stop would be Qingdao. There would be a lot of places to visit in this short tour.

129. The Chairman advised that the price of twin room for each person (occupying half of a room) was \$7,860 while the single room was \$9,740. He called on Members to actively join the exchange visit.

130. The Secretary said that invitation for the visit would be sent to all Members and the people listed above. Those who were interested should give their replies by mid-August 2012.

131. Mr AU Lap-sing said that special transport arrangement was required.

132. The Secretary responded that she would discuss the matter with Mr AU Lap-sing.

133. Mr LAM Kai-fai, MH said that some Members had asked if they could bring along their spouses.

134. The Chairman had no objection to this.

135. Mr AU Lap-sing supported that participants could join the visit with their spouses.

136. The Chairman said that the spouses of participants were welcomed to join the visit.

Seeking Consent for Playing Part of the DVD Content of Mid-autumn Fire Dragon Dance in Pok Fu Lam Village

137. The Chairman said that the Echigo-Tsumari Art Triennale 2012 (from 29 July to 17 September 2012) held at Niigata Prefecture in Japan was one of the world's major international art festivals. As this was the year of dragon, the organiser used dragon as the theme of the art festival and wanted to introduce the mid-autumn fire dragon dance in Pok Fu Lam Village to the people of Japan. As such, they had invited Mr NG Kong-nam, the consultant of the fire dragon dance financed by SDC under the "2010-2011 Southern District Tourism and Culture Festival", to demonstrate the craft of making fire dragon at the festival. To enable people of Japan and visitors to the art festival to learn more about the fire dragon dance in Pok Fu Lam, the organiser sought the consent of SDC for showing the documentary on the fire dragon dance made in 2010 at the art festival.

138. The Chairman asked if Members agreed to allow the organiser to show the documentary at the Echigo-Tsumari Art Triennale.

139. Mr LO Kin-hei enquired if the DVD contained SDC logo, and if not, could the logo be added in this stage.

140. Mr CHAI Man-hon said that the DVD was produced in the name of SDC. He suggested SDC to study if it was possible to take this opportunity to promote and introduce SDC in the festival so that people in Japan could understand the background of the tradition of fire dragon dance in the Southern District.

141. Mr AU Nok-hin enquired if it was the organiser of the festival who applied to SDC for showing the DVD.

142. The Chairman said that Mr AU Nok-hin was correct. Besides showing the DVD, Mr NG Kong-nam had agreed to demonstrate the craft of making fire dragon at the festival at the invitation of the organiser.

143. Mr AU Nok-hin said he understood that an exhibition venue would be set up on an open ground for the festival and was not certain if the place was suitable for disseminating SDC information. Nevertheless, he supported giving consent to showing the DVD.

144. The Chairman said that SDC would discuss Members' suggestions with Mr NG Kong-nam.

145. Mrs MAK TSE How-ling said that putting SDC logo in the DVD was not enough for promoting SDC and the presence of Members at the festival would give more strength to the promotion efforts.

146. Mr LAM Kai-fai, MH said that the tradition of fire dragon dance was an "Intangible Cultural Heritage" and SDC should be more forward-looking and develop it into a brand of the Southern District. As Mr NG Kong-nam was going to Japan for the occasion, if a video record could be made on the performance of fire dragon dance at the festival, it could help SDC promote this intangible cultural heritage overseas in future.

147. Mr FUNG Wai-kwong asked when the Echigo-Tsumari Art Triennale would be held.

148. The Chairman replied that it would be held from 29 July to 17 September 2012.

149. The Secretary supplemented that the event would be divided into sections. The organiser would exhibit the fire dragon produced by Mr NG first and then it would be lit up in one of the nights during the festival. The Secretariat would confirm the exact date later if Members were interested in attending the festival.

150. Members unanimously agreed that the organiser could show the DVD on the traditional fire dragon dance produced by SDC in 2012 at the Echigo-Tsumari Art Triennale held in Niigata Prefecture.

Invitation to Southern District Indoor Lawn Bowls Fours 2012

151. The Chairman said that the “Southern District Indoor Lawn Bowls Fours 2012” co-organised by SDRSA and the Leisure and Cultural Services Department would be held at Ap Lei Chau Sports Centre at 10:00 a.m. on 19 August 2012 (Sunday). As usual, the organiser would like to invite SDC to send a team to participate in the competition. Also, a coach would be available from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. on 15 August 2012 for those participants in need.

152. The Chairman asked whether Members agreed to form a team for participating in the event, which was subject to a quota of six persons.

153. Members nominated Ms CHEUNG Sik-yung, Mr LO Kin-hei, Ms LAM Yuk-chun, MH, Mr CHAN Fu-ming, MH and Mrs CHAN LEE Pui-ying to participate in the competition on SDC’s behalf.

154. SDC approved the nominations.

Nomination of the Southern District Football Club to Participate in the Hong Kong Football Association District Football League as the Southern District Team

155. The Chairman said that the Southern District Football Team had been promoted to the First Division after the close of football season in May 2012. According to Article 5(e) of the “Association Rules” and Article 4.4 of the “League

Rules” of the Hong Kong Football Association (HKFA), all district teams should obtain the authorisation of respective District Councils (DCs) for participating in football competitions of any division. Therefore, Members were invited to consider authorising the Southern District Football Club under SDRSA to participate in HKFA competitions on behalf of the Southern District.

156. The Chairman invited Members to give views on this matter.

157. SDC approved to authorise the Southern District Football Club under SDRSA to participate in HKFA competitions on the behalf of the Southern District.

Organisation of an opening ceremony for the Pedestrian Covered Walkway at Aberdeen Praya Road

158. The Chairman said that the construction of a cover over the pedestrian walkway at Aberdeen Praya Road would be completed in early August 2012, and invited Members to give views on whether a kick-off ceremony for the project should be held with a view to promoting District Minor Works programmes under SDC.

159. The Chairman added that the above project was under the purview of the District Facilities Management Committee (DFMC). As the project would be completed on 3 August 2012, the department concerned would remove the water-filled barriers at the location before 8 August 2012. Having regard the fact that there would not be sufficient space for a kick-off ceremony on the pedestrian walkway after it was opened for public use, it was suggested that the kick-off ceremony would be held before the commissioning of the walkway, such as on 7 August 2012. In addition, since SDC had not earmarked funding for this ceremony, neither DFMC nor the Community Affairs and Tourism Development Committee (CATC) was vested with the power to approve the allocation, hence, it was necessary for SDC to endorse the related funding beforehand. As for which types of construction projects should be accorded kick-off ceremony, this could be further discussed at DFMC meeting.

160. The Chairman asked whether Members supported to organise a kick-off ceremony for the above construction project, and invited Members to propose the allocation amount.

161. Mr LO Kin-hei supported to organise a kick-off ceremony but suggested keeping it as simple as possible. Despite that the construction project was one of the key projects of SDC, he believed that the general public would expect minimal spending.

162. Mr CHAI Man-hon opined that a ceremony could be thrifty or costly depending on practical needs. In this case, SDC did not need to spend a lot of money in ritual items, and simple logistics such as a few dozens of cakes, and multi-loop bows or balloons for ribbon-cutting would be just fine. If the proposed ceremony cost several thousands dollars only, people would appreciate SDC's thrifty arrangements, nevertheless, it would be unacceptable for a budget higher than \$10,000. He hoped that SDC could adhere to the principle of thriftiness.

163. Dr YEUNG Wai-foon, MH, JP said that the covered pavement was a highlight project of the Southern District, which was a main access for residents commuting to and from Tin Wan and Aberdeen. He shared the views of some Members that the spending on the kick-off ceremony should be kept to a minimum. However, considering that normally a kick-off ceremony would include lion dance performance and pig-cutting ceremony according to the Chinese customs, he suggested a grant of \$10,000 for the ceremony.

164. Mrs MAK TSE How-ling opined that it took SDC a long time to obtain the consent to construct the project, so the commissioning of the covered walkway should not be too low profile. Besides, according to traditional Chinese customs, lion dance performance and pig-cutting ceremony were essential elements of a kick-off ceremony, she supported to earmark \$10,000 for the ceremony.

165. Mr Paul ZIMMERMAN opined that if SDC wished to share the fruits of its endeavors with the public, it should step up communication with all nearby residents instead of wasting money on rituals which could not benefit many people. He proposed that SDC should consider a questionnaire survey by mail to inform residents at Tin Wan and Aberdeen of the work of SDC and collect their views on the project. He commented that simply holding a ceremony without a feed-back mechanism would only be a waste of money, which could not facilitate communication with residents, so he strongly oppose to spending money on just a ceremony.

166. Ms LAM Yuk-chun, MH said that the covered walkway was a main access

from Aberdeen to Tin Wan, and a highlight project of SDC as well. She recalled that a few years ago, a small ground-breaking ceremony had been held for the commencement of works, so it was reasonable to organise a simple kick-off ceremony for its completion. She agreed that the allocation concerned should not exceed \$10,000.

167. Ms CHEUNG Sik-yung opined that Chinese customs attached great importance to following through a project from the beginning to the end, and as a ground-breaking ceremony had been held, a complementary kick-off ceremony should also be held upon the completion of the project in order to share the blissful occasion with residents.

168. Mr TSUI Yuen-wa shared the views of Mr Paul ZIMMERMAN, and said that if SDC deemed it not necessary to send direct mails to residents, banners at roadside could be considered for publicity purpose. He pointed out that the work of SDC was not for electioneering purpose, so extravagant arrangements should be by all means avoided.

169. Mr LAM Kai-fai, MH supported to keep the ceremony low profile and the funding should be capped at \$10,000.

170. Mr AU Lap-sing agreed to hold a kick-off ceremony in line with traditional Chinese customs. He suggested that DFMC could discuss the criteria on what types of construction projects should be accorded kick-off ceremony and decide on the funding amount. Also, after DFMC had laid down related criteria, which unit would be responsible for following up on ceremonial matters.

171. The Chairman suggested that DFMC would discuss the above issue.

172. Mrs CHAN LEE Pui-ying said that it did not cost much to buy cakes as snacks for the staff, while the pig-cutting ceremony was a must for a kick-off ceremony because it marked the blissful commissioning of the covered walkway.

173. Mr TSUI Yuen-wa clarified that the electioneering work he just mentioned referred to the fact that district councillors often had to launch many publicity campaigns to announce their achievements in district work for electioneering purpose. Nevertheless, it was not necessary for SDC as a whole to launch such campaigns so as

to avoid wasting public money.

174. Mr Paul ZIMMERMAN said that he did not oppose to SDC spending \$10,000 on the kick-off ceremony out of respect for the Chinese customs as explained by fellow Members. Nevertheless, he emphasised that the ceremony should not be just an occasion for eating and drinking, instead it should aim at strengthening communication with residents, such as distributing leaflets, questionnaires or hanging banners to show the contact information of SDC so as to pro-actively gather feed-back from residents on the just completed project.

175. The Chairman invited Members to vote on whether a kick-off ceremony should be held.

176. Mr CHAI Man-hon asked how the voting would be conducted.

177. The Chairman responded that Members should vote on whether the kick-off ceremony should be held first, and then on whether the funding should be capped at \$10,000. He welcomed Members to make other suggestions.

178. Mr AU Lap-sing said that for an outdoor ceremony, the hiring of public address equipment and production of banners had already required a couple of thousand dollars, so the funding cap at \$10,000 should be in line with the principle of thriftiness.

179. The Chairman invited Members to vote on whether the kick-off ceremony should be held and the funding be capped at \$10,000. The proposal was carried with 14 votes for it (namely Mr CHAN Fu-ming, MH, Mr AU Lap-sing, Mrs CHAN LEE Pui-ying, Ms CHEUNG Sik-yung, Mr CHU Lap-wai, Mr FUNG Se-goun, Mr FUNG Wai-king, Mr LAM Kai-fai, MH, Ms LAM Yuk-chun, MH, Dr LIU Hong-fai, Mrs MAK TSE How-ling, Mr WONG Ling-sun, Dr YANG Mo, PhD and Mr YEUNG Wai-foon, MH, JP), two votes against it (namely Mr TSUI Yuen-wa and Mr Paul ZIMMERMAN) and 3 abstentions (namely Mr AU Nok-hin, Mr CHAI Man-hon and Mr LO Kin-hei).

180. The Chairman said that Members' views on the kick-off ceremony were noted and the related spending would be kept to a minimum. In closing, he concluded that SDC endorsed to earmark \$10,000 for the kick-off ceremony related to

the addition of a cover over the pedestrian walkway at Aberdeen Praya Road.

(Mr AU Lap-sing, Ms CHEUNG Sik-yung, Mr FUNG Se-goun and Mr WONG Yuet-chung left the meeting at 6:55 p.m.)

Sponsors for Women Development Projects

181. The Chairman said that in 2012, the Women's Commission (WoC) had launched the "Funding Scheme for Women's Development" under which \$1 million would be allocated to 18 DCs (that is, \$53,000 for each DC) to sponsor local women's groups and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to organise community-based activities conducive to women's development. SDC could consider assigning respective committees under SDC or cooperating with women organisations/NGOs for organising the projects, or just let the said organisations be fully responsible for organising the projects. Also, SDC could consider using the funding to sponsor one or more activities.

182. The Chairman asked whether Members agreed to accept the WoC allocation at \$53,000.

183. SDC approved to accept the funding.

184. The Chairman said that SDC had previously reserved \$80,000 for the promotion of women activities, and asked whether Members agreed to combine the above \$80,000 with the additional provision at \$53,000 so as to broaden the coverage and variety of the activities.

185. Members unanimously agreed to combine the two fund allocations.

186. The Chairman invited Members to give views on how to allocate the funding such as whether one or more activities should be held, or if local women organisations should be invited to organise the activities.

187. Mrs MAK TSE How-ling said that there were 18 women organisations in the Southern District and they had formed the Organising Committee for Hong Kong Southern District Women's Activities. She suggested that the Organising Committee should be invited to coordinate matters related to promotion of women activities.

188. Mr Paul ZIMMERMAN opined that the mode of activities should be discussed at CATC meeting instead of SDC meeting. He suggested that SDC should allocate the funding to CATC first, and then CATC would discuss the utilisation of the fund.

189. Mr CHAN Fu-ming, MH commented that since the Organising Committee for Hong Kong Southern District Women's Activities was a broad representation of women organisations in the Southern District, SDC could commission the Organising Committee to coordinate matters related to promotion of women activities.

190. Mr CHAI Man-hon agreed that the mode of activities could be discussed at CATC meeting. It would be more appropriate for CATC to discuss matters relating to utilisation of SDC Funds.

(Mr CHAN Fu-ming, MH, Mr CHU Lap-wai and Mr FUNG Wai-kwong left the meeting at 7:03 p.m.)

191. The Secretary supplemented that WoC had specially stipulated in its Funding Scheme that grantee organisations were required to submit a mid-term report in October 2012. Therefore, SDC should endorse the acceptance of the allocation first, and then decide whether the allocation should be granted to one or more organisations, so that the organisations concerned could submit applications for approval at the upcoming CATC meeting to be held on 23 July 2012 in a timely manner. If the fund applications were to be approved at the CATC meeting in September 2012, the organisations would unlikely be able to submit the mid-term report in October 2012 in time. She emphasised that under normal circumstances, this matter should be discussed at CATC meeting.

192. Mr Paul ZIMMERMAN reiterated that CATC could decide on the allocation of resources according to the established procedure after SDC had endorsed the funding to CATC. Since he was not familiar with the local organisation mentioned by some Members, he was unable to make an informed decision on a suitable allocation at the moment.

193. The Secretary emphasised that WoC required grantee organisations to submit a mid-term report in October 2012, if the discussion of the allocation details had to

wait until the upcoming CATC meeting, and the call for funding applications from organisations would have to be carried out only after the meeting, then the fund applications could only be approved at CATC meeting in September 2012. It resulted that the grantee organisations would have a very tight schedule to organise activities because they could only do so after their applications were approved. More than this, they had to submit a mid-term report WoC in October. Therefore, she hoped that SDC could decide on how the funding would be allocated first, and then CATC would proceed with the vetting procedure.

194. Mr Paul ZIMMERMAN opined that if WoC's requirement was not reasonable, the Chairman should tell WoC the truth and reflect the wish of SDC to accept the allocation and the difficulties in submitting the mid-term report within the prescribed timeframe, so that WoC could re-consider the situation. As a mechanism for vetting and processing fund applications had been in place, SDC should adhere to its established procedures and principles.

195. Regarding the allocation of the funding at \$53,000, the Chairman asked whether Members agreed that this matter should be discussed at CATC meeting or at this meeting, while the other allocation at \$80,000 which did not have a deadline would be discussed at CATC meeting.

196. Mr LO Kin-hei opined that it would be more appropriate for CATC to discuss the mode of activities, and shared the views of Mr Paul ZIMMERMAN that SDC could only turn down the WoC allocation if the requirements were unreasonable. SDC needed not to give in and comply with WoC's conditions, which would only jeopardise the established vetting mechanism.

197. Mr YEUNG Wai-foon, MH, JP asked about the date of the upcoming CATC meeting.

198. The Chairman replied that the upcoming CATC meeting would be held four days later on 23 July 2012.

199. Mr YEUNG Wai-foon, MH, JP opined that the matter could be handled flexibly. As the Organising Committee for Hong Kong Southern District Women's Activities had been playing an active role in the promotion of women activities and its past record was good, he suggested that SDC should approve to commission the

Organising Committee to use the funding for organising activities for the promotion of women affairs first, and CATC would follow up on or approve the details of the activities later on.

200. The Chairman asked Mr YEUNG Wai-foon, MH, JP whether his recommendation was applicable to the allocation at \$53,000 or the combined allocation at \$133,000.

201. Mr YEUNG Wai-foon, MH, JP suggested that the two fund allocations should be combined, and pointed out that actually the funding amount at \$133,000 could only meet the expenses of one to two activities.

202. The Chairman said that since the \$53,000 was a time-limited allocation, while the \$80,000 allocated by SDC did not have a deadline, CATC could consider approval to the latter later on.

203. Mr YEUNG Wai-foon, MH, JP suggested that the two fund allocations should be discussed separately, and SDC should discuss the mode of activities related to the allocation at \$53,000 first.

204. The Chairman said that unless SDC had strong reasons, normally it should not decline the sponsorship for the promotion of women activities in the district. Having regard the deadline of the WoC allocation, it was suggested that SDC should approve to invite local women organisations to submit fund applications first, while CATC could handle the fund allocation at \$80,000 later.

205. Mrs MAK TSE How-ling opined that the Funding Scheme of WoC had an explicit purpose to sponsor activities related to the promotion of women affairs. Taking the new arrival women as an example, at present many of them had suffered from mood disorders and needed support for adapting to the new environment. Therefore, SDC should not decline the WoC funding hastily and let the valuable resources slip away.

206. Ms LAM Yuk-chun, MH said that WoC had specified a theme for the \$53,000 funding, and already informed SDC of the provision of the fund recently. The discussion of the allocation was postponed to this meeting only because the meeting schedule did not accommodate the matter. She opined that if the funding

was allocated to a dozen of so local organisations, the scale of activities would turn out small with low effectiveness. Hence, she suggested that the two fund allocations should be combined, and women organisations and NGOs would cooperate to organise a variety of large-scale activities so that more women could be benefited.

207. Mr Paul ZIMMERMAN emphasised that after SDC had endorsed the allocation to CATC, there was no need for CTAC to submit its recommendations to SDC for approval. He reiterated that it was not appropriate for SDC to discuss fund allocation to a designated organisation at this meeting.

208. Mr LAM Kai-fai, MH called on Members to reconcile their differences, and suggested that CATC would be tasked to follow up on and discuss the two fund allocations at \$53,000 and \$80,000 at the same time, and then decide whether the resources should be combined and whether the funding should be given to the Organising Committee for Hong Kong Southern District Women's Activities for further allocation.

209. In closing, the Chairman concluded that CATC would discuss how to handle the two fund allocations at its upcoming meeting four days later, that is, on 23 July 2012.

Aberdeen Dragon Boat Competition 2012

210. The Chairman said that recently the Southern District Racing Team won the championship of the "Fire Services Challenge Cup" in the Aberdeen Dragon Boats Races 2012, and the prize cup was shown at the meeting.

211. Members noted the race results and applauded the performance of the team.

Attendance of Working Group Meetings

212. The Chairman said that at recent meetings of the working groups under respective committees of SDC, it was often found that some Members were absent from or late for the meetings without prior notice, so the meetings were almost aborted. He emphasised that as Members had joined the working groups, they had the responsibility to attend the meetings. In case Members were unable to attend the meetings, they could consider withdrawing from the working groups or applying for

leave prior to the meeting, and under no circumstance should they be absent from the meetings without giving a reason. Also, Members should inform the Secretariat beforehand if they could not join the meeting on time, so that proper arrangements could be made.

Part II – Items for Information

213. The Chairman invited Members to note the following documents:

- Report from the Area Committees (SDC Paper No. 61/2012)
- Report of the 3rd Meeting of the District Facilities Management Committee (SDC Paper No. 62/2012)
- Report of the 3rd Meeting of the Community Affairs and Tourism Development Committee (SDC Paper No. 63/2012)
- Report of the 3rd Meeting of the District Development and Environment Committee (SDC Paper No. 64/2012)
- Report of the 3rd Meeting of the Traffic and Transport Committee (SDC Paper No. 65/2012)
- Report of the 172nd Meeting of the Southern District Management Committee (SDC Paper No. 66/2012)
- Financial Statement in respect of SDC Funds (as at 9.7.2012) (SDC Paper No. 67/2012)

Date of Next Meeting

214. The Chairman informed the meeting that the 6th meeting of SDC would be held on Thursday, 13 September 2012 at 2:30 p.m.

215. There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:14 p.m.

Secretariat, Southern District Council
September 2012