

**Minutes of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of  
the Sha Tin District Council in 2019**

**Date** : 23 May 2019 (Thursday)  
**Time** : 2:30 pm  
**Venue** : Sha Tin District Council Conference Room  
 4/F, Sha Tin Government Offices

<b><u>Present</u></b>	<b><u>Time of joining the meeting</u></b>	<b><u>Time of leaving the meeting</u></b>
Chairman : Mr HO Hau-cheung, SBS, MH	2:30 pm	7:49 pm
Vice-Chairman : Mr PANG Cheung-wai, Thomas, SBS, JP	2:30 pm	6:44 pm
Members :		
Mr CHAN Billy Shiu-yeung	2:30 pm	5:20 pm
Mr CHAN Kwok-keung, James	3:05 pm	7:49 pm
Ms CHAN Man-kuen	2:30 pm	6:41 pm
Mr CHAN Nok-hang	2:30 pm	6:42 pm
Mr CHENG Tsuk-man	2:30 pm	5:30 pm
Mr CHING Cheung-ying, MH	2:30 pm	6:36 pm
Mr CHIU Chu-pong, Sunny	2:30 pm	5:20 pm
Mr CHIU Man-leong	2:30 pm	7:49 pm
Mr HUI Yui-yu, Rick	2:30 pm	4:48 pm
Mr LAI Tsz-yan	3:40 pm	6:46 pm
Ms LAM Chung-yan	2:30 pm	6:16 pm
Mr LEE Chi-wing, Alvin, MH	2:30 pm	6:52 pm
Mr LEUNG Ka-fai, Victor	2:30 pm	6:41 pm
Mr LI Sai-hung	2:30 pm	7:49 pm
Mr LI Sai-wing	2:30 pm	7:49 pm
Mr LI Wing-shing, Wilson	2:30 pm	7:49 pm
Mr MAK Yun-pui	2:30 pm	5:29 pm
Mr MOK Kam-kwai, BBS	2:30 pm	5:20 pm
Mr NG Kam-hung	2:30 pm	4:43 pm
Ms PONG Scarlett Oi-lan, BBS, JP	2:30 pm	5:31 pm
Mr PUN Kwok-shan, MH, JP	2:30 pm	7:01 pm
Mr SIU Hin-hong	2:30 pm	7:47 pm
Mr TING Tsz-yuen	2:30 pm	6:11 pm
Mr TONG Hok-leung	2:30 pm	6:23 pm
Ms TSANG So-lai	2:30 pm	5:58 pm
Ms TUNG Kin-lei	2:30 pm	7:46 pm
Mr WAI Hing-cheung	2:30 pm	7:49 pm
Mr WONG Fu-sang, Tiger	2:30 pm	7:49 pm
Mr WONG Hok-lai	4:16 pm	7:33 pm
Mr WONG Ka-wing, MH	2:30 pm	7:49 pm
Ms WONG Ping-fan, Iris	2:30 pm	7:49 pm
Mr WONG Yue-hon	2:30 pm	4:22 pm
Mr YAU Man-chun	2:30 pm	6:09 pm
Mr YIP Wing	2:30 pm	7:49 pm

**Present**

Mr YIU Ka-chun, MH  
 Mr YUNG Ming-chau, Michael  
 Secretary : Mr YUEN Chun-kit, Derek

**Time of joining  
the meeting**

2:30 pm  
 2:30 pm  
 Senior Executive Officer (District Council) /  
 Sha Tin District Office

**Time of leaving  
the meeting**

6:23 pm  
 7:49 pm

**In Attendance**

Ms CHAN Yuen-man, Amy, JP  
 Mr WONG Tin-pui, Simon  
 Mr WONG Shek-hay, Sebastian  
 Mrs MAK LAU Wai-mun, Josephine

Mr TAM Chun-hei, Terry

Ms TANG Ching-pan, Janet

Mr WONG Kwok-wai, Wilson  
 Mr YUEN Sze-chun

Mr YUEN Tat-yung, Zorro

Mr LAU Chun-him, Kenny

Mr CHIU Hak-pui, Christopher

Ms HEUNG Ching-ye, Alice

Ms CHAN Siu-kin, Ester

Mr LAI Wing-chi, Derek

Mrs LEE CHEUNG Yat-wai, Gloria

Ms YIP Sau-mei, Joyce

Ms CHIANG Lam

Mr CHUNG Chun-fei, Jeffrey

Mrs CHENG CHAU Shing-sing, Linda

Ms NGO Po-ling

Ms CHENG Siu-ling, Katy  
 Ms NG Suk-min

**Title**

District Officer (Sha Tin)  
 Assistant District Officer (Sha Tin) (1)  
 Assistant District Officer (Sha Tin) (2)  
 District Commander (Shatin) /  
 Hong Kong Police Force  
 Police Community Relations Officer (Shatin  
 District) / Hong Kong Police Force  
 OC (District Intelligence Section) (Shatin) /  
 Hong Kong Police Force  
 District Lands Officer (Atg) / Sha Tin  
 Administration Assistant /  
 Lands (District Lands Office, Sha Tin)  
 Chief Engineer / North (SD2) / Civil  
 Engineering and Development Department  
 Senior Town Planner / Sha Tin /  
 Planning Department  
 Principle Transport Officer / New Territories 1  
 / Transport Department  
 Chief Leisure Manager (New Territories East) /  
 Leisure and Cultural Services Department  
 Deputy District Leisure Manager (District  
 Support) Sha Tin / Leisure and Cultural  
 Services Department  
 District Environmental Hygiene  
 Superintendent (Sha Tin) / Food and  
 Environmental Hygiene Department  
 District Social Welfare Officer (Shatin) /  
 Social Welfare Department  
 Chief School Development Officer (Shatin) /  
 Education Bureau  
 Senior School Development Officer (Shatin) 5  
 / Education Bureau  
 Senior School Development Officer (Shatin) 3  
 / Education Bureau  
 Chief Information Officer (Education) /  
 Education Bureau  
 Chief Manager (Management) (Tai, North and  
 Shatin) (Atg) / Housing Department  
 Chief Liaison Officer / Sha Tin District Office  
 Senior Liaison Officer (East) /  
 Sha Tin District Office

**In Attendance**

Ms LEUNG Wai-shan, Cecilia

Mr HO Kin-nam, David

**Title**

Senior Liaison Officer (West) /

Sha Tin District Office

Executive Officer I (District Council)1 /

Sha Tin District Office

**In Attendance by Invitation**

Mrs YEUNG HO Poi-yan, Ingrid, JP

Ms CHAN Chin-woon, Cynthia

Ms Jan LI Po-yi

Ms YU Wai-fan, Monica

Mr WONG Kok-ming, David

**Title**

Permanent Secretary for Education

Principle Education Officer (New Territories) /  
Education Bureau

Senior Community Relations Officer /

Regional Office (New Territories East) /

Independent Commission Against Corruption

Regional Officer (New Territories East) /

Independent Commission Against Corruption

Architect (Works)8 /

Home Affairs Department

**Absent**

Ms YUE Shin-man

(Application for leave of absence received)

**Action**

The Chairman welcomed all Members and representatives from government departments and organisations to the third meeting of this year.

2. The Chairman informed all attendees that some members of the public, being present as observers, were taking photographs and making video and audio recordings.

3. The Chairman, on behalf of the Sha Tin District Council (STDC), welcomed the following representatives to the meeting: Mrs Ingrid YEUNG, Permanent Secretary for Education and Ms Cynthia CHAN, Principle Education Officer (New Territories) of the Education Bureau (EDB) and Mr Kenny LAU, Senior Town Planner (Sha Tin) representing Ms Jessica CHU, District Planning Officer (Sha Tin, Tai Po and North) of the Planning Department (PlanD).

**Application for Leave of Absence**

4. The Chairman said that the STDC Secretariat received an application for leave of absence in writing from the following Member:

Ms YUE Shin-man

Important family business

5. The Council approved the application for leave of absence submitted by the Member above.

6. The Chairman learnt yesterday that the Commissioner of Police (the Commissioner) of the Hong Kong Police Force (HKPF) would not be able to attend the meeting as scheduled at 4:30 pm today due to urgent official duties. He pointed out that the Secretariat would continue to communicate with the HKPF to facilitate the Commissioner's future visit to the STDC.

7. Mr Rick HUI asked whether the Chairman of the STDC could express a political stance on the amendments to the “Fugitive Offenders Ordinance” on behalf of the entire STDC before any consultation and whether such an action was in line with procedures. He said he did not support the amendments to the “Fugitive Offenders Ordinance”; however, it was reported in the papers that “all 18 District Councils supported the amendments”. He asked whether the Chairman would publish a statement to clarify that his stance did not represent that of the entire STDC.

8. The Chairman replied that it was not a question about procedures. He reiterated that he had never expressed that he signed any petition on behalf of the STDC or any Members present. He emphasised that he expressed his stance in his own capacity. He pointed out that he was elected as the Chairman of the STDC by Members present. He led his everyday life as the Chairman of the STDC and could not ask for Members’ instructions on every task; just as Mr Rick HUI led his daily life as a Member of the STDC and could not obtain approval from all voters in the district for every task. He could follow up and discuss with Mr Rick HUI individually after the meeting.

9. The views of Mr MAK Yun-pui were summarised below:

- (a) he enquired about the specific timetable for the Commissioner’s next visit to the STDC;
- (b) he asked what kind of urgent official duties led to the Commissioner’s absence and why the Deputy Commissioner of Police could not be sent in his stead; and
- (c) he wanted to know if the Commissioner’s absence from the meeting was due to his fear of being asked questions on the amendments to the “Fugitive Offenders Ordinance”.

10. The Chairman said the Secretariat was only notified by the HKPF yesterday that the Commissioner could not visit the STDC due to urgent official duties. He was not informed of any further details about the reason. He emphasised that the HKPF valued its communication with the STDC and promised to arrange again for the Commissioner to visit Sha Tin when practicable.

11. The views of Mr Michael YUNG were summarised below:

- (a) he asked if the District Commander knew the reason for the Commissioner’s absence;
- (b) there would only be 2 more meetings before the end of the current term of the STDC. He asked the Chairman how he would handle the absence of the Commissioner to ensure that the Commissioner would attend the meeting as he had done over the past years to listen to and answer Members’ enquiries on HKPF matters; and
- (c) he opined that closed-door meetings could not allow Members to express their views on an open platform or members of the public to look up replies from

departments. He wanted to know, after the PlanD had invited Members to visit the City Gallery, if the Chairman would extend another invitation to the Director of Planning to visit the STDC and to listen to Members' opinions on the planning and development of the Sha Tin District.

12. The Chairman promised to follow up on and strive for the visit of the Commissioner before the end of the current term of the STDC. He added that heads of departments, by the Chief Executive's request, were communicating directly with the districts through arranging visits and visiting District Councils. He pointed out that if the STDC wished to invite the Director of Planning to visit, assistance from the District Officer (Sha Tin) might be needed to follow up on the matter.

13. Mr Sunny CHIU said that Members had prepared different questions for the Commissioner's visit. He asked whether the Commissioner was absent from the meeting due to ill-health or work reasons.

14. The Chairman reiterated that the Commissioner was absent because of urgent official duties. He pointed out that the duties carried out by the HKPF were sensitive in nature and it might not be appropriate for heads of departments to disclose their actions to Members beforehand. He said he would inform Members if he later received further information.

**Confirmation of the Minutes of the Meeting Held on 21 March 2019**  
(STDC Minutes 2/2019)

15. The Council confirmed the above minutes unanimously.

**Visit of Permanent Secretary for Education**  
(Paper No. STDC 32/2019)

16. The Chairman welcomed Mrs Ingrid YEUNG's visit to Sha Tin and invited the EDB to briefly introduce its work.

17. Ms Joyce YIP, Chief School Development Officer (Shatin) of the EDB briefly introduced the work of the EDB, with the following main points:

- (a) in this year's Budget, the total expenditure on education was the highest among all policy areas. The EDB had been implementing the new kindergarten education policy since the 2017/18 school year to provide affordable quality kindergarten education. The EDB improved the quality of kindergarten education from various aspects, including the enhancement of the teacher-pupil ratio, the enhancement of the Performance Indicators of the Quality Assurance Framework and the promotion of continued professional development of school principals and teachers. Currently, 59 local non-profit-making kindergartens in the district were participating in the Kindergarten Education Scheme. Hong Kong Christian Service was assigned new school premises in Shek Mun Estate in March 2019 and was actively preparing for the commencement of services in September this year;

- (b) the EDB estimated that the overall demand for Primary 1 school places had peaked this school year and would gradually return to a stable level in the 2019/20 school year. In the past few years, the EDB had adopted arrangements to flexibly increase Primary 1 school places. As the number of Primary 1 students decreased, the EDB would withdraw the flexible arrangement as necessary to maintain the stable development of primary schools that would be affected. The EDB would also implement targeted relief measures in the next school year. Besides, although the overall number of Primary 1 students began to fall in the 2019/20 school year, the needs of individual districts or school nets might not be consistent with the overall trend. In this school year, the number of students per class would be temporarily increased to 29 for schools in School Nets 88 and 89 in the Sha Tin District and that of the schools in School Net 91 to 31, so as to fulfil the demand for school places;
- (c) the overall number of Secondary 1 students was expected to increase steadily in the coming few years. Therefore, the EDB would closely monitor the changes in the overall demand for Secondary 1 school places in the Sha Tin District to ensure the provision of adequate school places;
- (d) the EDB had implemented multiple important improvement measures for primary and secondary education. Starting from the 2017/18 school year, the teacher-to-class ratio of public sector primary and secondary schools, including special schools, had been increased by 0.1, providing around an additional of 2 200 permanent teaching posts for public sector schools. Starting from the 2019/20 school year, the Government would upgrade the entire teaching force in public primary and secondary schools to a degree-holding one. Public sector schools and Direct Subsidy Scheme (DSS) schools would be provided with resources to hire additional administrative staff to reduce administrative work for teachers and principals, so that they could focus more on students' growth. Also, starting in the 2019/20 school year, public sector and DSS schools would be provided with the Life-wide Learning Grant to further promote life-wide learning through organising experiential learning activities outside the classroom in different curriculum areas;
- (e) the EDB would strengthen the education on the subjects of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) and promote STEM education with a multi-pronged approach, including allocating resources, adding facilities and providing teacher training;
- (f) Quality Education Fund allocated \$3 billion earlier to set up the Dedicated Funding Programme for Publicly-funded Schools to launch school-based curriculum development and support measures for students and to cover the expenses of school premises improvement works and procurement of supplies associated with the school activities concerned. The programme started accepting applications from schools in July last year. The application procedures were simple;
- (g) the Mainland exchange programmes for primary and secondary students launched by the EDB provided 100 000 exchange places in the 2018/19 school

year, so as to complement curriculum and student developments and to provide at least 1 subsidised visit to the Mainland for students in the primary and secondary levels, which would allow students to learn about the country from multiple perspectives;

- (h) in the 2018/19 school year, Chinese History was already confirmed as an independent compulsory subject for the junior secondary level. The EDB would provide additional subvention for secondary schools that had admitted non-Chinese speaking students to support them in the learning of Chinese History;
- (i) starting from the 2018/19 school year, the EDB would increase resources for public sector primary schools and special schools to implement the “One School Social Worker for Each School” Policy, aiming to ensure that there would be at least 1 school-based registered graduate social worker in each public sector school;
- (j) regarding the support for students with special educational needs (SEN), starting from the 2019/20 school year, the EDB would restructure the funding programmes for integrated education, increase the grant amount of tier-3 support of the “Learning Support Grant” (LSG) and provide permanent teaching posts for schools that admitted more students with SEN. Also, starting from the 2019/20 school year, the EDB would upgrade the posts of the Special Educational Needs Coordinators to promotion rank in public sector ordinary schools that admitted more students with SEN. The EDB would continue to expand the “Enhanced School-based Educational Psychology Service”, with the aim of improving the ratio of educational psychologists to schools to 1:4 for around 60% of all public sector ordinary schools in the 2023/24 school year. And starting from the 2019/20 school year, the EDB would create school-based speech therapist posts in the public sector ordinary schools by phases in 3 years to allow schools to form clusters to employ school-based speech therapists. Starting from the 2019/20 school year, the EDB would also provide additional resources for public sector ordinary schools to strengthen emotional, communication and social support for non-Chinese speaking students with SEN;
- (k) there were a total of 81 schools providing kindergarten education in the Sha Tin District this school year. There were also 3 government primary and secondary schools and 79 aided primary and secondary schools. The Shatin Joint School Senior Secondary Curriculum organised by the EDB and the Sha Tin District Secondary School Heads Association provided more diverse combinations of elective subjects to help students develop through multiple pathways. Besides, the EDB held over 20 community-based expertise sharing sessions in this school year, where over 1 000 teachers participated;
- (l) under the school-based management (SBM) system, schools could formulate policies that better suited the needs of students according to the situation of the school, so as to enhance students’ learning outcomes. SBM had been launched for over a decade and operating smoothly in most schools, where stakeholders participated in school governance. Regarding the recent governance issues in

individual schools in the Sha Tin District, the EDB had followed up with relevant schools at once to assist them in improving the quality of governance;

- (m) there were 4 matchbox-style schools built inside public rental housing (PRH) estates in the Sha Tin District between the 60s and the 80s. Starting from the summer vacation in 2017, the EDB had gradually started school improvement works for relevant primary schools, which were expected to be completed during or before the summer vacation this year;
- (n) in relation to the traffic problems regarding TWGHs Shui Chuen O Primary School that concerned various parties, the EDB had conducted 2 inter-departmental meetings to explore practicable solutions. Also, the vehicle run-in and run-out and vehicular access of the proposed school premises were wide enough for 12-metre long vehicles to drive through and turn around. There were also 3 school bus parking spaces of 12 metres long;
- (o) there were no vacant school premises in the Sha Tin District currently. After TWGHs Shui Chuen O Primary School returned the temporary premises in Mei Lam Estate (Mei Lam premises), the EDB would evaluate the use of the Mei Lam premises according to the established mechanism. And after the relocation of Island School from the Sha Tin District, the temporary school premises that used to be Hong Kong and Kowloon Chiu Chow Public Association Ma Chung Sum Secondary School and Shatin Tsung Tsin Secondary School would be used for school purposes in the long term. There was no need to reserve the third to sixth floors of the former Evangelical Lutheran Church of Hong Kong Wo Che Lutheran School for the EDB for school purposes;
- (p) the EDB had started the school allocation exercise for the former school premises of Sung Lan Middle School in Mei Lam Estate and the new school premises in Au Pui Wan Street in Fo Tan for the purpose of reprovisioning existing public sector primary schools and DSS primary schools. The results would be announced in the third quarter this year. Application was open to all eligible sponsoring bodies in the territory. The School Allocation Committee would give primary consideration to the quality of teaching and other factors for consideration, including the track record of sponsoring bodies and proposed school plans. If the conditions of applications were similar, priority consideration would be given to applicants that were located in the same district as the new school premises. Regarding the traffic arrangements for the new school premises in Au Pui Wan Street in Fo Tan, the EDB understood Members' concern about students' traffic safety when they commuted to and from school, as well as Members' opinions on nearby traffic. The EDB would closely follow up with the Architectural Services Department to ensure that the design of access for both vehicles and pedestrians of the school premises would be based on full consideration of the surrounding environment and student safety;
- (q) the English Schools Foundation (ESF) had fully implemented the "No Private Car Use Policy" in the 2 temporary school premises of Hong Kong Island since January 2018. Regarding the remaining ESF schools (namely Sha Tin Junior School, Sha Tin College and Renaissance College) in the Sha Tin District, the



ESF had recruited special staff to coordinate relevant traffic arrangements and to implement measures, including making arrangements for shuttle bus services and adding more school bus routes. However, desired results were not yet achieved as the existing school bus service operator failed to facilitate the above. In order to implement the “No Private Car Use Policy”, the ESF had stipulated that all new students of the above 3 schools were required to comply with relevant arrangements starting from the 2019/20 school year. The ESF had issued a letter to inform students’ parents. The ESF was studying the reorganisation and expansion of school bus routes with the newly recruited school bus service operator to provide more flexible school bus route options for students of Sha Tin Junior School and Sha Tin College starting from the 2019/20 school year. Around 90% of the students of Renaissance College currently went to school by school bus, public transport or on foot. The ESF was planning a large-scale, student-led publicity campaign to urge the remaining 10% of the students to go to school by public transport. The ESF would fully implement the “No Private Car Use Policy” in the above 3 schools starting from the 2020/21 school year. If students did not comply with the policy, the ESF would consider suspending their extra-curricular activities. The Education and Welfare Committee would discuss the traffic issue of ESF schools at the meeting on 11 July. The ESF would send a representative to the meeting to explain the latest arrangements of the implementation of the “No Private Car Use Policy” at the 3 schools. Regarding the previous breach of lease conditions of Sha Tin Junior School and Sha Tin College, where the approved parking areas for private vehicles, taxis and school buses were used as vehicle parking areas, upon being notified by the District Lands Office / Sha Tin (DLO/ST), the EDB had immediately urged the ESF to rectify the breach as soon as possible. The ESF had replied that the relevant situation had been rectified;

- (r) the EDB understood that there was room for improvement in the traffic arrangements of individual private independent schools and DSS schools during the periods that students commuted to and from school. The EDB would continue to maintain communication with relevant departments, schools and stakeholders on traffic arrangements and would consider formulating practicable terms regarding the schools’ improvement in traffic conditions when handling renewing service contracts with relevant schools;
- (s) the resident intake of Shek Mun Estate Phase 2 commenced recently. The EDB had distributed application forms for a change of school through the Housing Department (HD) to parents who had just moved in; and
- (t) the EDB would continue to maintain close contact with all major stakeholders (including the STDC) to understand the expectations and opinions of the community, so as to continuously improve education services and measures in the district, assist schools in implementing policies and facilitate all-round development for students, so that they could put their knowledge into good use.

18. The views of Mr Thomas PANG were summarised below:

- (a) when the ESF opened a school in the Sha Tin District in the 2016/17 school year,

it promised to implement the “No Private Car Use Policy” in the 2018/19 school year; the policy included forbidding new students to go to school by private vehicles. Regarding the new parking spaces, the ESF said that many teachers drove to school; however, private vehicles were parked in the pick-up and drop-off area of school buses, which defeated the DLO/ST’s original intention of designating a school bus parking area and affected residents’ daily life. He suggested that the ESF adopt smart parking. Also, he pointed out that the ESF should not collect school bus fees on a quarterly basis, but on a monthly basis instead to increase flexibility; and

- (b) the population relocating to Fo Tan continued to increase but one of the traffic lanes in the district was reserved for vehicles of the Hong Kong Institute of Vocational Education, slowing the surrounding traffic. He suggested that the Transport Department (TD) give all public vehicles access to the above lane.

19. The views of Mr MAK Yun-pui were summarised below:

- (a) the Hong Kong Social Workers’ General Union had previously made an appointment to meet with the Secretary for Education to discuss the policy of “One School Social Worker for Each School”. The current policy did not benefit experienced non-graduate social worker. Many school social workers expressed that the schools could terminate their contracts at any time. He hoped that the EDB would show concern for the situation and cooperate with the Labour and Welfare Bureau and stakeholders to guarantee the rights of current school social workers with certain years of experiences; and
- (b) the current lack of social worker services in kindergartens had undoubtedly increased the burden of kindergarten teachers, who already had a heavy administrative workload. He suggested that the EDB implement a policy similar to that of “One School Social Worker for Each School” in kindergartens, so as to handle emotional problems of students and to provide assistance to students with SEN.

20. The views of Mr WONG Yue-hon were summarised below:

- (a) he hoped that the EDB would improve the facilities of matchbox-style school premises, as those schools faced problems such as lack of space and old facilities, and therefore parents did not enrol their children in those schools. He pointed out that a number of the schools would borrow facilities from the HD and hoped that the EDB could actively borrow facilities from the HD to give schools more space to expand school premises;
- (b) many pre-schools wished to offer pre-primary curriculum; however, fire service facilities of the school premises did not meet the standard and the costs of improving relevant facilities were high. He pointed out that there was an increase in demand for pre-primary curriculum among working parents and hoped that the EDB could strengthen support for pre-schools in old PRH estates, so that the schools could replace relevant fire service facilities and start offering pre-primary curriculum; and

- (c) the former SAHK Ko Fook Iu Memorial School located in Wo Che Estate would not be reprovisioned as school premises. He opined that the EDB should discuss with relevant persons and departments the option of using the vacant third to sixth floors for other community uses.

21. The views of Mr CHING Cheung-ying were summarised below:

- (a) local students faced immense stress from their parents and schools. He opined that the EDB should not continuously pressure schools, which would in turn give students more homework. He urged the EDB to implement measures to change the general belief that academic result was of utmost importance. Also, the situation of suicides among local students was worrying; however, he did not think the EDB made efforts to improve the situation; and
- (b) he pointed out that the relationship between schools and teachers was consistently tense and that teachers had to handle a lot of duties unrelated to teaching. He also asked why it was not compulsory for DSS schools to establish an Incorporated Management Committee and asked about how the EDB reviewed the Territory-wide System Assessment, the Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education Examination, all-graduate teaching force and the switch of contract teachers to permanent posts.

22. Mr CHAN Nok-hang said that the use of Putonghua as the medium of instruction for teaching the Chinese Language Subject (PMIC) had been implemented since 2008; however, many schools had cancelled PMIC in the past decade as it was not very effective. He asked if the EDB deemed Cantonese unimportant, and asked about the reason for requiring students to communicate in Putonghua which made it difficult for them to properly speak Cantonese in their daily lives. Cantonese was the most common medium in Hong Kong's society. He hoped that the EDB could comprehensively review the policy of PMIC and whether it should continue to be implemented.

23. The views of Ms LAM Chung-yan were summarised below:

- (a) she cited Singapore as an example and suggested that the Government actively build a reading culture to nurture a trend of lifelong reading in society;
- (b) she suggested that the EDB review its policy of training talents, optimise the Qualifications Framework and train more staff to solve the problem of manpower shortage in all businesses; and
- (c) she hoped that EDB would add in relevant principles, such as the "No Private Car Use Policy", when formulating the terms of service of private schools, so as to prevent the overloading of roads.

24. The views of Mr Wilson LI were summarised below:

- (a) he opined that the EDB should enhance the teacher-to-student ratio and further promote small class teaching to increase the quality of education and to do its

utmost to provide support for students with SEN by strengthening social work services;

- (b) STEM education had yet to be strengthened and the development of subjects such as Mathematics and Science should not be overlooked. He also agreed on the importance of Chinese History and Liberal Studies, as they could nurture students' patriotic spirit and analytical capabilities;
- (c) he said that frequent modifications to the syllabus led to frequent revision of textbooks, and as textbooks were expensive, it added to parents' financial burden; and
- (d) he said that residents strongly opposed the construction of student residence of the City University of Hong Kong at Yiu Sha Road, Whitehead, Ma On Shan, because students would have to travel a long distance to the campus in Kowloon Tong and the selected site, surrounded by many residential buildings, would have a huge impact on the residents, the environment and the surrounding traffic.

25. The views of Mr CHENG Tsuk-man were summarised below:

- (a) teachers had a heavy workload. Besides teaching, they also had to mark students' homework, handle administrative duties and even handle exchange programmes at times. He asked if the EDB had any measure to ease the burden on teachers, such as providing counselling services;
- (b) he wanted to learn about the EDB's work in handling school bullying, the number of such cases in the district and relevant data; and
- (c) he asked if the textbook contents of Chinese History would be impartial and give a truthful account of contemporary Chinese history, including incidents such as the Cultural Revolution and the June 4 incident.

26. Mr Tiger WONG opined that the EDB should focus more on nurturing secondary students' moral and ethical values and place more emphasis on students' moral development, so that students would not be affected by wrong values or disrupt social order.

27. Ms TUNG Kin-lei was pleased to see the EDB's long-term planning for vacant school premises. She hoped that the serious rodent and mosquito infestation issue of the Mei Lam premises would be addressed during the renovation works in September. Also, residents hoped that the old premises of Free Methodist Mei Lam Primary School could be rep provisioned for other community or government facility uses. She urged the EDB to promise not to use the premises as temporary school premises.

28. Mr Sunny CHIU said that more than 10 school buses were coming in and out of the ESF school premises in Pok Hong Estate during morning peak hours, which affected residents nearby. He hoped that the EDB could discuss with the school improvement measures to encourage students to take public transport. Also, after the completion of the redevelopment of the ESF school premises on Hong Kong Island, the school premises of Hong Kong and Kowloon Chiu Chow Public Association Ma Chung Sum Secondary School previously used as

ESF school premises would continue to be used for educational purposes. However, he suggested that the land use of the location be changed and that the location be used for a government complex, so that the Social Welfare Department (SWD), Home Affairs Department (HAD), or social welfare organisations could set up various social service units there to fulfil the district's needs for welfare services.

29. The views of Ms Iris WONG were summarised below:

- (a) she said much of the household population that newly moved to Shek Mun Estate had a keen demand for school places. However, students originally in School Net 91 had to attend schools in School Nets 88 or 89 in other districts due to the shortage of school places, which added to the burden of both students and parents. She hoped that the EDB could expeditiously plan ahead for the demand for education, so that students could go to school in their own neighbourhood;
- (b) new kindergartens would come into operation in the Sha Tin District, but no detailed information on the sponsoring bodies had been provided. She pointed out that many young parents in the district were working parents and hoped that the new kindergartens could provide child care services; and
- (c) she hoped that the EDB would include the "No Private Car Use Policy" and similar principles when formulating the terms of service of private schools in order to prevent overloaded traffic.

30. The views of Ms Scarlett PONG were summarised below:

- (a) local students and their parents were under immense stress. She asked if the EDB had any policy to change the belief among parents that their children's academic results were of the highest importance. She suggested setting up new scholarships to encourage students, other than those with good academic performance and conduct, who excelled in sports and social services. Students and parents would then understand academic results were not everything and could consider pathways other than going to university; and
- (b) she wanted to know the number of sponsoring bodies that chose to operate schools in Fo Tan. The environment and road facilities, including the pavements, of the Fo Tan industrial area were not ideal. There was also serious illegal parking. To ensure the safety of residents and students, she suggested expeditiously adding more parking spaces and building 2 footbridges to improve the traffic.

31. The views of Mr WAI Hing-cheung were summarised below:

- (a) Shui Chuen O Estate was the largest PRH estate in the Sha Tin District. However, there was no primary school inside the estate. This mistake should not be repeated in other districts. He pointed out it was known that there were a few schools in the Sha Tin District that were popular among many parents. He hoped that the EDB and the schools could make improvements and change

parents' perception of the schools that were mainly located within PRH estates. Also, some parents expressed unwillingness to enrol their children in schools with more Mainland immigrant students, as they feared unreasonable treatment. He hoped that the EDB would pay attention to that; and

- (b) regarding the issue of school bullying, he hoped that the EDB would gain a deeper understanding of the governance issue of schools as soon as possible and explore whether schools were providing a joyful learning environment for students, which could help reduce the suicide rate of students.

32. The views of Mr PUN Kwok-shan were summarised below:

- (a) he asked if the EDB had the information on the number of local students pursuing university education in the Mainland since the return of Hong Kong to China in 1997. He said that the Government signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Mainland in 2004 on the mutual recognition of university qualifications. But he learnt that Hong Kong residents graduating from Mainland universities still had to have their qualifications accredited by the Hong Kong Council for Accreditation of Academic and Vocational Qualifications (HKCAAVQ); and
- (b) community halls and centres in the Sha Tin District had high utilisation rates. He suggested that the Sha Tin District Office (STDO) work with the EDB to urge schools to allow members of the community to borrow their facilities and to inform them of the arrangements.

33. Mr WONG Ka-wing said that parents' values and their expectations of their children had a huge impact on students' growth. There was a popular demand among parents for pre-primary education and various interest classes. However, parents did not consider if the classes were suitable for their children, failing to make learning pleasurable for them. He hoped that the EDB could organise more seminars for parents to build positive thinking and make the best decisions for their children according to their abilities and interests. He continued to say that all jobs should enjoy equal status and the EDB should educate the public to accept jobs requiring low academic qualifications, while it should also proactively nurture scientific and technological talents.

34. The views of Mr Michael YUNG were summarised below:

- (a) he hoped that the EDB would do more work related to creativity potential and technology education. He said that Information Technology Assistant was not a post of the permanent establishment in schools and suggested that the EDB consider including it in the permanent establishment, giving it a status on par with other posts such as Laboratory Technician;
- (b) he pointed out that the reprovisioning of matchbox-style school premises was required to meet the requirements for fire service installations. He cited the site of the former Sir Ellis Kadoorie Secondary School (Shatin) in Ma On Shan, which was once considered for conversion to a community hall; however, the site was eventually handed over to the Vocational Training Council due to the

requirements for fire services installations;

- (c) there were relatively more primary school age children in the district; however, due to the current delay in school premises construction and the class size of 29 to 30, it was difficult to implement small class teaching. As the number of primary school age children decreased and new school premises were completed, he hoped that the EDB could expeditiously implement small class teaching; and
- (d) he wanted to learn about the “No Private Car Use Policy” of DSS schools and asked when the EDB would include relevant policies in the terms of service when formulating such terms with schools other than ESF schools or Pui Kiu Middle School.

35. The views of Mr Alvin LEE were summarised below:

- (a) he appreciated the resources the Government had devoted to education so as to regularise the policy of regular teaching staff establishment. Regarding Mainland exchange programmes for students, he opined that students should be encouraged to participate in academic exchange with schools in the “9+2” cities of the Greater Bay Area and their parents should be allowed to travel together. Taking reference from the advance teaching methods in the Mainland would help enhance the levels of education in both Hong Kong and the Mainland. The EDB could subsidise relevant study visits to the Greater Bay Area; and
- (b) he suggested that the EDB coordinate the cooperation between the business and education sectors and build mechanisms to provide students with work opportunities, such as summer internships at large-scale corporations, to help them with life planning.

36. The views of Mr LI Sai-wing were summarised below:

- (a) he pointed out some parents expressed that certain kindergartens that were not in the Kindergarten Subsidy Scheme were quite good and suggested that the EDB discuss with those kindergartens and subsidise some of the places. He was also concerned about kindergartens’ practice of collecting an acceptance fee, and opined that this could reduce the choices for students from low-income families; and
- (b) the Government’s support for students with SEN was inadequate. Many schools had insufficient qualified teachers and limited resources and therefore could not implement small class teaching tailored to the needs of these students. He opined that the EDB could follow the example of Singapore, where teachers were only responsible for teaching and duties such as marking homework were handled by other staff.

37. The views of Mr CHIU Man-leong were summarised below:

- (a) he was concerned about the issue of vacant school premises, as land resources were precious and many of the community facilities within the district were in

need of improvement. He opined that vacant school premises could be utilised for other purposes;

- (b) there were quite a number of student suicide cases previously. He hoped that the EDB would continue to pay attention to students' emotional and academic stress issues, make more publicity efforts and educate students about ways to relieve stress. He also suggested that the EDB increase the subsidy for whole-day and long whole-day kindergartens to lessen working parents' burden of taking care of their children and to release more labour force to the market; and
- (c) he asked about the study pathway and credits recognition of associate degree and high diploma programmes and whether students of such programmes could be admitted to the second year of Mainland or overseas universities.

38. Mr LI Sai-hung was concerned that the duties of Student Guidance Teacher might be replaced under the EDB's "One School Social Worker for Each School" Policy.

39. Mr SIU Hin-hong opined that the EDB's work on educating non-Chinese speaking students was inadequate. Many South Asians could communicate in Cantonese, but their abilities to read and write in Chinese were poor. The EDB should provide more language training and learning support for them.

40. The Chairman pointed out that schools could rent out their venues for community activities and other activities, including leisure and sports activities. In order to alleviate illegal parking, schools could open their playgrounds for parking purposes. He hoped that the EDB could actively promote the sharing of school facilities in the community.

41. Mrs Ingrid YEUNG gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) regarding the ESF's failure to implement the "No Private Car Use Policy" within the pledged time, the EDB had urged the ESF to expedite the implementation. The ESF would send representatives to attend the meeting of the Education and Welfare Committee this July to explain the situation. The EDB would also closely monitor the ESF's work progress;
- (b) the EDB would sign a service contract with newly established international schools and DSS schools; however, it was not a compulsory arrangement for all international schools. If traffic problems within the vicinity of the school originated from poor handling on the school's part, the EDB would actively consider including appropriate and practicable terms in the new service contract and communicate more with the school to solve the problem. The school should also teach its students to be considerate to residents in the community and to use public transport as much as possible;
- (c) to improve the "matchbox-style school premises" and the school premises inside old PRH estates, the EDB had created new spaces within existing ones and installed movable partitions, which had been quite popular among schools. Many schools located inside old PRH estates in the Sha Tin District or other



districts also had the support of students and parents. The EDB would meet the demand of schools as much as possible regarding the improvement of school facilities. The redevelopment of schools would involve land use issues. The EDB understood that Members hoped that vacant school premises could be used for other community facilities. The EDB would discuss with the PlanD ways to use vacant school premises for the maximum benefit of the community;

- (d) the EDB had to plan school constructions based on long term population changes and estimates of the population of school age children in the district. And therefore, the construction of new schools might not proceed at the same time as the resident intake of large-scale housing estates. According to the demand in each district, the EDB would adopt flexible arrangements and adjust the supply of school places accordingly;
- (e) given the lack of land resources, the EDB would handle vacant school premises cautiously. If the EDB learnt that school premises would soon be vacant, it would conduct internal review expeditiously to discern if the premises would be retained for educational purposes. If it was confirmed that the vacant school premises would not be assigned by the EDB for school purposes, the EDB would inform the PlanD and other relevant departments (such as the Lands Department and the HD) according to the Central Clearing House mechanism, so that the departments could consider using the premises for other suitable long-term purposes;
- (f) the EDB would provide guidelines for schools on encouraging integration between schools and their communities and the better use of resources; however, schools might be concerned about legal responsibilities involved in lending school facilities. Also, as there were school activities over the holidays, facilities could not be lent to other organisations;
- (g) the EDB understood that students faced immense academic pressure, and agreed that quite a number of parents had to change their existing attitudes towards studies and career development of their children and they should also consider the matter from a more comprehensive perspective. The EDB already implemented review on parent education in 2017 and the relevant report recommended that the EDB advocate positive thinking and engage in publicity work. The EDB would also actively consider promoting parent education more systematically. Also, the EDB understood that students' stress mostly came from homework, assessments, public examinations, etc., and the EDB frequently communicated with schools to convey that it was not the amount of homework that mattered and it was undesirable to ask students to complete repetitive assignments. Starting from 2001, the focus of the syllabus had been shifted to students' ability to learn in order to nurture their self-learning abilities, such as collecting data and analysing issues. The EDB Quality Assurance team would regularly conduct school inspections and offer opinions to schools on the mode of assignment;
- (h) PMIC was suggested by the Standing Committee on Language Education and Research over 10 years ago and was not an established policy of the EDB. The

learning medium for the subject was a school-based decision;

- (i) regarding supporting schools in caring for students with SEN, the EDB had always provided additional resources for schools. Starting from the 2019/20 school year, the EDB would restructure the funding programmes for integrated education, increase the allowance amount of the LSG and provide 1 to 3 additional permanent teaching posts to schools whose LSG reached specific thresholds. Also, the EDB would continue with the Enhanced School-based Educational Psychology Service, with an aim to increase the educational psychologist to school ratio to 1:4 in around 60 percent of public sector ordinary secondary and primary schools by the 2023/24 school year. Also, the EDB endorsed new measures this September to create school-based speech therapist (SBST) posts in schools by phase in 3 years, where about 2 schools would form a cluster to employ a SBST to support students with SEN;
- (j) to support the Chinese education of non-Chinese speaking students, the EDB had especially provided the “Chinese Language Curriculum Second Language Learning Framework” for schools to meet the needs of non-Chinese speaking students. Additional resources would also be provided for schools to employ more teachers;
- (k) many schools did not employ information technology personnel and it might not be enough to retain relevant talents even with the creation of permanent posts. Quite a number of schools would purchase services from information technology companies;
- (l) the schools could utilise the subsidy from the “One School Social Worker for Each School” Policy to hire a graduate social worker and to continue the employment of Student Guidance Teachers. Also, on top of the involvement of social workers, the EDB had always encouraged the participation of all teachers in the comprehensive student guidance work in school;
- (m) Task Force on Review of School Curriculum was reviewing the primary and secondary curricula and would conduct public consultation work. The EDB would continue to study and implement arrangements for articulation and mutual recognition of qualifications between local programmes, including associate degrees, and programmes of Mainland and overseas universities;
- (n) the EDB would review its work on cooperation between the business and education sectors and career planning, and continue to promote the project;
- (o) the EDB would also monitor the quality of education of the schools participating in the Kindergarten Education Scheme, so that children would receive quality education. But the EDB would not make participation of the scheme compulsory. According to the revised “Hong Kong Planning Standards and Guidelines”, there should be equal numbers of half-day and full-day kindergarten places. Regarding the provision of child care services, the Government would refer to the “Hong Kong Planning Standards and Guidelines”. Under the Kindergarten Education Scheme, the EDB would provide subsidies for

kindergartens to provide free half-day services as stipulated as a standard by the EDB. The EDB would regularly review the effectiveness of the scheme;

- (p) regarding the problem of school bullying, the EDB had zero tolerance for schools that delayed the handling of the problem; and
- (q) regarding the policy on university hostel life, the EDB hoped that undergraduate students could experience at least 1 year of hostel life. There was a serious shortage of hostel places in the territory. More hostel places would also be beneficial to overseas students coming to the territory for exchange, and therefore facilitate the internationalisation of universities. The student residence of the City University of Hong Kong at Yiu Sha Road, Whitehead, Ma On Shan was located close to an MTR station, which would be convenient for students to travel to and from campus. According to the findings of the traffic impact assessment, there was not a huge time overlap between students' commute to and from school and residents' commute to and from home. The impact on residents' daily life should not be significant. The university would also arrange shuttle bus services to provide transportation for students, depending on circumstances. The student residence came with 24-hour security management to prevent students from causing noise nuisance. She believed the university could manage the student residence properly.

42. Mr Wilson LI opined that, as the new student residence of the City University of Hong Kong was surrounded by residential high-rises, construction work would affect residents.

43. Mrs Ingrid YEUNG added that the contractor should use methods to reduce noise and the emission of dust in response. The EDB would remind the university and the contractor to reduce noise when necessary.

44. Mr Michael YUNG opined that Information Technology Assistants would not have promotion prospects if the EDB did not include them in the permanent establishment, and schools would face the problem of staff wastage.

45. Mr PUN Kwok-shan said that his assistant who graduated from Jinan University in the Mainland had to have his qualifications accredited by the HKCAAVQ, which was inconsistent with the policy of mutual recognition of university qualifications advocated by the EDB.

46. Mrs Ingrid YEUNG said that qualifications obtained overseas might need to be accredited by the HKCAAVQ because the education system might differ from that in the territory. The EDB did not require private organisations to have their employees' qualifications accredited. Regarding the increasing number of local students seeking further studies in the Mainland, the EDB would continue to communicate with relevant units there. To her knowledge, graduates from Mainland universities did not encounter too many difficulties in their search for employment in the territory.

47. The Chairman said Members could continue to raise questions at the meeting of the Education and Welfare Committee for the EDB to follow up on the issue. He thanked Mrs Ingrid YEUNG again for attending the meeting.

**Discussion Items**

The Sha Tin District Council (STDC) to Serve as Event Supporter  
(Paper No. STDC 33/2019)

48. Mr Tiger WONG asked the Secretariat what follow-up action it would take if an assistant of a DC Member, in the name of a community officer, displayed the logo of the STDC on publicity materials of an event without the STDC's endorsement to serve as the supporter.

49. Mr Derek YUEN, Senior Executive Officer (District Council) of the STDO said that the Secretariat would follow up the individual case after the meeting.

50. Ms CHAN Man-kuen was worried that the public might be misled if the STDC did not handle the unauthorised use of the STDC logo in a stringent manner. She would like to know the established practice of the Secretariat in handling the said situation, and whether the offenders would be condemned or advised as penalties.

51. Mr Derek YUEN said he had never encountered such cases during his term of office. He had to consult the HAD and other District Councils for follow-up actions in respect of the STDC logo case.

52. Mr CHIU Man-leong expressed concern about the unauthorised use of the STDC logo. He suggested following up the matter at the next meeting.

53. The Chairman opined that it would take time for the Secretariat to learn about the actual situation and handle the mechanism. He advised the Secretariat to follow up the related matter.

54. Mr Tiger WONG said he had provided the email of the said case to the Secretariat, the Chairman and the Vice-Chairman of the STDC. However, no staff member had contacted him so far. Mr Derek YUEN said he would ask the responsible staff for details after the meeting.

(Post-meeting note: Mr Tiger WONG's case had been followed up and a reply had been given to him.)

55. The Council unanimously endorsed that the STDC would serve as the supporter of the "The 10th 'Quit to Win' Smoke-free Community Campaign" organised by the Hong Kong Council on Smoking and Health, "12 Hours Wheelbarrow Run Guinness World Record" organised by the Wheel for Oneness, "RBC Race for the Kids" organised by the Boys' & Girls' Clubs Association of Hong Kong, and "HK Territory-wide Youths Painting Day 2019" organised by the Young Artists Development Foundation, and that the logo of the STDC would be displayed on the publicity materials of the said events.

2019-2020 Work Plan of the ICAC Regional Office (NTE)  
(Paper No. STDC 34/2019)

56. The Chairman welcomed Ms Monica YU, Regional Officer (New Territories East) and

Ms Jan LI, Senior Community Relations Officer / Regional Office (New Territories East) of the Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC).

57. Ms Monica YU gave a Power Point presentation on the paper. The main points were as follows:

- (a) the ICAC Regional Office (New Territories East) (NTE Office) was under the ICAC Community Relations Department (CRD). Its main duties were to educate the public about the negative impacts of corruption and to enlist public support for combating corruption. During the formulation of the Work Plan of this year, the CRD had considered 3 factors, namely the findings of the Annual Survey of 2018 (findings of survey), the corruption risk assessment and public elections;
- (b) the findings of survey showed that Hong Kong had maintained a high standard of integrity. The public had nearly total intolerance to corruption (score of 0.5), which was the lowest score since the question was added in 2010. Moreover, 98.4% of the respondents had not encountered corruption in the past year and 81.7% indicated that they were willing to report corruption. Although young people had slightly higher tolerance to corruption in comparison with other age groups, the level was still low. As for respondents with lower education level, or who had resided in Hong Kong for less than 7 years, fewer of them were willing to report corruption and considered the ICAC's anti-corruption work effective. Also, fewer respondents had received information about the ICAC before in these 2 groups;
- (c) the ICAC received 2 665 corruption complaints in 2018 (excluding complaints related to elections), a decrease of 170 complaints or 6% when comparing to 2 835 complaints in 2017. The CRD would continue to focus on sectors/departments/industries which were more frequently complained of corruption and to strengthen education work;
- (d) following the holding of the Rural Ordinary Election, Rural Committee Election and Heung Yee Kuk Election in the first half of 2019, other public elections of various tiers, including the District Council Election in the second half of the year, and the subsequent Legislative Council Election, Election Committee Subsector Election and Chief Executive Election, would also commence one after another. In light of the complaints and enquiries about the Elections (Corrupt and Illegal Conduct) Ordinance received in the previous cycle of elections, the change of the Hong Kong society, and the amendment of electoral laws, the ICAC would accordingly formulate its work plan and comprehensively promote the idea of clean elections to candidates and their election agents, helpers and electors;
- (e) in response to the District Council Election 2019, the CRD would launch the education and publicity programme "Support Clean Elections". The NTE Office, as the programme coordinator of clean elections under the CRD, would be in charge of this programme. As for the candidates, the ICAC would arrange briefing sessions on the Elections (Corrupt and Illegal Conduct)

Ordinance for political parties, political organisations, candidates and their election helpers as per their requests. “Clean Election Information Booklet” would also be prepared to help candidates, agents and election helpers have a better understanding of the provisions of the ordinance and its applicability. The ICAC would also prepare the Checklist for Candidates and launch a website on clean elections to remind them, from preparation for the campaign to submission of the election return, of the points that they should pay attention to;

- (f) to make sure that education and publicity could reach all electors, the ICAC had made a leaflet about “anti-vote rigging”, which would be attached to the water bills and be sent to all Hong Kong citizens. Various activities would also be held one by one to promote clean elections among electors of different sectors. The Guidelines for Electors would be attached to poll cards and distributed to all electors;
- (g) apart from the traditional media, such as television, radio, newspaper, and broadcasting advertisements and short films on public transport, and broadcasting platform at residential estates and office buildings, the ICAC would also engage in more publicity work via other platforms, including online advertisements and online television;
- (h) to tie in with the said education and publicity programme, the NTE Office was planning to invite the STDC to serve as the supporter of “Support Clean Elections” activities to be held in Sha Tin to widely disseminate the idea of clean elections in Sha Tin. The CRD would utilise local network such as the Estate Management Advisory Committee, to remind the public of the key points of the related laws and areas to which local organisations serving as supporters should pay attention, through the organisation of seminars and community education involvement programme. Local organisations and people who were interested in the Elections (Corrupt and Illegal Conduct) Ordinance were also invited to attend the briefing sessions for the detailed introduction of the related laws. Moreover, a wide range of school activities were designed for kindergartens, primary and secondary schools and tertiary institutions to promote positive values among the young generation;
- (i) meanwhile, territory-wide activities under the theme “All for Integrity” were held by the CRD, including the game booths in the Hong Kong Book Fair and the TV drama “ICAC Investigators 2019” which was aired in April. The CRD would continue to promote the idea of “All for Integrity” through its Facebook page, traditional channels, outdoor media and online channels;
- (j) to strengthen youth integrity education, the CRD had been promoting anti-corruption messages to children and youths of different age groups in various ways. One of the major projects of the CRD this year was to launch the “Fun Reading for Kids” picture book for integrity programme, which would be a 2-year programme to help children develop proper values. Other major projects included the production of “Gee Dor Dor” moral education resources for kindergarten to help kindergarten teachers promote moral education in line with the “Kindergarten Education Curriculum Guide” 2017 published by the EDB, as

well as the launch of “It’s Show Time” programme to encourage young people to think about and experience the importance of corruption-free society through different types of multi-media creative work. The NTE Office would promote anti-corruption messages in the district in line with the said activities to educate students on the ICAC’s work and the importance of honesty and integrity;

- (k) to strengthen anti-corruption education at the grass-root level, the CRD would launch publicity and education targeted at new arrivals, ethnic minorities and the working class. For example, “‘Integrity Matters in Everyday Life’”, the short educational film and information pack’ in different languages, were widely disseminated through traditional media and online channels. Apart from immigration control points and Registration of Persons Offices under the Immigration Department, job centres under the Labour Department, Integrated Family Service Centres and Social Security Field Units under the SWD, cross boundary coach termini, the short films were also broadcasted via radio programmes and social media platforms accessed by ethnic minorities, and at work places of the working class (for example, cleaning workers, construction workers), with a view to conveying the messages of “Don’t Bribe”, “Report Corruption”. The NTE Office also conveyed anti-corruption messages to the said targets through different government departments and organisations;
- (l) for government departments, since the public was concerned about the incidents of government staff being involved in misconduct in public office and conflicts of interests, the CRD would hold seminars for government staff of all ranks (including senior government officials) to remind them of the latest development of anti-corruption laws and integrity management. The NTE Office would also provide suitable anti-corruption education service for civil servants of different ranks and responsibilities to suit the needs of various bureaux and departments. The CRD would also release new online learning materials and training videos within this year. Civil servants who could not attend seminars might therefore receive basic training on integrity flexibly at anytime and anywhere. As for public bodies, the NTE Office would provide anti-corruption education service for them, as in the past;
- (m) for business sector, the CRD also helped improve the integrity of practitioners of some sectors which were more often complained of corruption, including estate management, construction, finance and insurance. In collaboration with the Insurance Authority and professional organisations in the sector, the CRD would kick off the 2-year “Ethics Promotion Programme” for the insurance industry in 2019 to enhance the integrity and professional ethics of practitioners on various fronts, with a view to deepening the integrity culture in the sector; and
- (n) for building management, in response to “Operation Building Bright 2.0”, “Fire Safety Improvement Works Subsidy Scheme” and “Lift Modernisation Subsidy Scheme” launched by the government, the CRD would provide anti-corruption education services to owners, owners’ corporations (OCs) and other stakeholders who had joined the above schemes. The services included seminars jointly held with the Urban Renewal Authority (URA) and the HAD for the introduction of anti-corruption law and measures that prevented corruption in building

maintenance. The CRD would also continue to disseminate information on corruption prevention through channels including dedicated website, while the NTE Office would continue to write to all estate management organisations every year to introduce the ICAC's anti-corruption education service.

58. Mr Alvin LEE pointed out that with the popularity of social media, comments made during the election campaign via such platforms might be advantageous to some individual candidates, and thus might affect the election result and cause unfairness. In this regard, he would like to know how the ICAC would follow up and handle such situation with the Registration and Electoral Office.

59. The views of Mr Thomas PANG were summarised below:

- (a) he said he was under the ICAC's investigation after every District Council election for some censorious complaints. He opined that this would perplex innocent candidates. Moreover, he was dissatisfied that some well-grounded complaints were not followed-up because of the lack of evidence; and
- (b) he asked the ICAC to remain neutral and not to insinuate some political parties on television programmes or publicity videos. Otherwise, the public might misunderstand that the ICAC was in favour of certain political stances.

60. Mr WAI Hing-cheung said the ICAC had called him before and explained that since the ICAC did not have a permanent representative at the Education and Welfare Committee, they would not send any representatives to the meetings to respond to questions regarding education and helping new arrivals establish values of clean election. He was disappointed about that and asked the ICAC to reflect whether it was a behaviour showing their willingness to work with the STDC.

61. The views of Mr Michael YUNG were summarised below:

- (a) he agreed with the ICAC's Work Plan of enhancing the culture of clean election in Hong Kong by educating the public its importance in elections of various tiers;
- (b) in light of the corruption case of Garden Vista, he would like to know how the ICAC would strengthen anti-corruption publicity in regard to estate management, and how it would cooperate with the URA under "Smart Tender" to combat bid-rigging;
- (c) he asked how the ICAC instilled the message of probity and anti-corruption in youths through Liberal Studies;
- (d) he opined that the business sector was prone to corruption, offer and acceptance of advantages. He would like to know how the ICAC cooperated with large organisations to promote the information on probity.

62. The views of Mr CHIU Man-leong were summarised below:



- (a) he said the public could lodge complaints against the Police at Complaints Against Police Office or the Independent Police Complaints Council, or against other government departments at the Office of the Ombudsman. He would like to know through what channels the public could monitor the work of the ICAC; and
- (b) he asked if someone canvassed for a candidate and made comments to attack other candidates indiscriminately on social media platform Facebook or instant messaging application Whatsapp, without submitting a Declaration of Election Advertisement or a Declaration of Election Expenses, whether such an act had violated the laws, and how the ICAC would enhance publicity on social media to prevent members of the public breaking the law inadvertently.

63. Mr James CHAN said some complaints made by the public were obviously not worth investigating. However, the ICAC still spent time on investigation, which he opined was a waste of time and resources, as well as unnecessary disturbance to candidates. He advised that the ICAC should have a clear division of labour with the Registration and Electoral Office and the Police.

64. Mr LI Sai-hung said after stepping into the election year, some people intended to stand for election would distribute trolleys and gift packs with political party logos printed on them to the public. This had made the public doubt that election bribery was involved. He asked the ICAC to strengthen publicity and education in this aspect.

65. Mr Wilson LI opined the ICAC and government departments should work in a fair and impartial manner, and continue to handle complaints with prudence.

66. Mr YIP Wing opined that apart from public education, the ICAC should also train investigators to investigate professionally and ask quality questions so as to avoid causing unnecessary disturbance to Members.

67. The views of Mr LI Sai-wing were summarised below:

- (a) he said a Member, as a former ICAC Investigator, had disclosed details of the ICAC's work. He asked the ICAC to review the situation seriously; and
- (b) he had reported cases to the ICAC regarding individuals defaming, attacking and smearing candidates on the Internet. However, the ICAC closed the cases after a few months' investigation. He opined that such malicious attack had already affected the fairness of the election. He asked what mechanism the ICAC had to strengthen the study on the penalties against such behaviours and communication with the Registration and Electoral Office, with a view to ensuring the probity and fairness of elections.

68. Ms Monica YU gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) responding to Members' concerns on elections, she said as a law enforcement agency, the ICAC had all along handled complaints in a fair and impartial manner and invited different parties to provide information according to the

actual needs to ascertain the facts. Under its policy, the ICAC would not comment on individual cases;

- (b) besides, the ICAC had to report the progress and result of investigation of all cases on a regular basis to the independent “Operations Review Committee” (OPC), which comprised of representatives of different government departments and prominent citizens. For unsubstantiated cases, the ICAC could never discontinue investigations at its own discretion. It was required to seek approval from the OPC;
- (c) she said the plots and characters in the ICAC’s piece of publicity were all fictitious and would never insinuate any persons or organisations. Regarding the “Clean Rural Elections” publicity broadcasted last year, the ICAC had made amendment upon receipt of views on the colour of outfits to avoid misunderstandings;
- (d) to maintain the fairness of elections and to ensure that every candidate had the same amount of resources for the electioneering campaign, the Election Return was subject to stringent requirements under the laws. She hoped Members would understand that. The relevant departments actually amended the laws a few years ago after having gauged the views from various parties. Candidates were allowed to correct mistakes within a certain amount of money, in the Election Return. For District Council Elections, mistakes within \$500 could be corrected by submitting a copy of the Election Return. The relevant departments had already submitted a bill to the Legislative Council, expecting to raise the amount to \$3,000. She said Members could keep an eye on the progress of the law amendment;
- (e) under clause 26 of the Elections (Corrupt and Illegal Conduct) Ordinance”, it was illegal for any persons to publish a materially false statement of fact about particular candidates for the purpose of promoting or prejudicing the election of the candidates, regardless of whether such a statement was published online. The ICAC welcomed reports of any suspected case of violation of the said ordinance. Moreover, under the Guidelines on Election-related Activities published by the Electoral Affairs Commission (EAC), broadcasters and the print media should handle reports relating to candidates in accordance with the principle of fair and equal treatment, or otherwise be censured by the EAC;
- (f) the ICAC would convey Members’ views to the EAC, while Members could also make suggestions to related departments directly to improve the election arrangement;
- (g) she thanked Mr WAI Hing-cheung for his views. The NTE Office would make reference to his views if the NTE Office was invited to the STDC’s meeting in future;
- (h) regarding building management, the Corruption Prevention Department of the ICAC had given advice on corruption prevention to the URA in response to their “Operation Building Bright 2.0” programme, with a view to closing the

corruption loopholes that might exist during the tendering procedure. Meanwhile, the CRD had held seminars with the URA and the HAD to explain anti-corruption laws and corruption prevention measures for building maintenance to the public. The CRD had also set up websites on corruption information for easy reference by the public;

- (i) besides, the Regional Offices of the ICAC would take the initiative to approach newly established OCs or OCs that had received Repair Orders or Fire Safety Directions issued by the Buildings Department for the provision of anti-corruption education services. Every year, the NTE Office also invited in writing all property management organisations in the district and STDC Members to participate in anti-corruption activities in the Sha Tin District. She wished to cooperate with Members closely, and said that Members could feel free to contact the ICAC for the arrangement of services for property management organisations in their respective constituencies;
- (j) the ICAC had all along held large-scale promotion activities regularly for the business sector. For example, for the “Ethics Promotion Programme for Listed Companies” launched earlier, the ICAC had contacted over 2 000 listed companies and would continue to introduce its services to new listed companies in the future. The ICAC had been providing tailor-made seminars for different business organisations, while regular seminars had already been arranged for many private organisations;
- (k) regarding youth education, she said the topics in Liberal Studies of the secondary curriculum were flexible and teachers could select teaching contents freely. Some students also selected probity-related topics for their studies in the past. The ICAC had been providing different seminars for tertiary students through student affairs offices, schools and departments of tertiary institutions, including “Talks on Personal Ethics” to newly-admitted students, and anti-corruption seminars to potential graduates; and
- (l) as for the case of former Chief Executive mentioned by a Member, the ICAC had sought legal advice from the Department of Justice (DoJ) and prosecution was not initiated because the DoJ believed that there was no sufficient evidence. The DoJ had already made a statement explaining the rationale and she had nothing to add.

69. Mr CHIU Man-leong noticed that some members of the public canvassed votes for or attacked individual candidates on social media without submitting a Declaration of Election Advertisement. He asked the ICAC to strengthen public education in this regard.

70. The views of Mr Michael YUNG were summarised below:

- (a) he said before elections of various tiers, some candidates made extensive propaganda through different organisations, or carried out publicity work under the name of ambassador. He suggested that the ICAC regulate such type of publicity;

- (b) he would like to know apart from holding seminars in universities, whether the ICAC would carry out publicity and education through academic associations; and
- (c) he asked how the ICAC kept the business sector and government departments well informed of the anti-corruption information.

71. Mr Alvin LEE opined that the result of 2015 Election was influenced by comments made via social media. He asked the ICAC how long it would take to investigate cases of individuals influencing election results by use of social media deliberately, what sanctions would be imposed in relation to such cases and what mechanism for handling complaints made by the public was available.

72. Mr LI Sai-wing said he had reported the case of a candidate being smeared online according to the established procedures. However, he was informed by the ICAC that the case had been closed a few months later. He asked the ICAC to actively close the loopholes before election to stop such an unfair situation.

73. Ms Monica YU gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) she said under clause 23 (1A) of the latest edition of Elections (Corrupt and Illegal Conduct) Ordinance, a person, other than a candidate or a candidate's election expense agent, not under the instruction of a candidate, published an election advertisement on the Internet, could be exempted from the criminal liability if the only expenses incurred were electricity and Internet access charges. As for District Council Election, other requirements on publishing an election advertisement were not covered by the Elections (Corrupt and Illegal Conduct) Ordinance;
- (b) in view of the rapid development of online social media, the ICAC understood that it was necessary to educate the public on the amendments of the said ordinance. Therefore, the ICAC had already arranged briefing sessions on the ordinances and produced a video about the key provisions of Elections (Corrupt and Illegal Conduct) Ordinance. Publicity would also be carried out through online advertisement;
- (c) the time the ICAC needed for investigation of each case was subject to the actual situation and could not be generalised;
- (d) any person who was convicted of having engaged in corrupt or illegal conduct in contravention of the Elections (Corrupt and Illegal Conduct) Ordinance, he or she would be disqualified and could not be nominated as a candidate in election of various tiers within a certain period. In fact, there were candidates convicted of an offence under the Elections (Corrupt and Illegal Conduct) Ordinance after being elected, and the election result was immediately determined invalid by the court and therefore a by-election had to be held;
- (e) besides, the ICAC had, through students affairs offices of tertiary institutions, invited student organisations to attend or hold anti-corruption seminars on a

voluntary basis; and

- (f) regarding the business sector and government departments, the ICAC would, according to their job nature and work flow, provide suitable education services, including teaching materials and seminar services.

74. The Chairman acknowledged the ICAC's role in society and their effort made. He asked the ICAC to keep pace with the times and to note Members' views.

75. The Council unanimously endorsed that the STDC would serve as the supporter of the "Support Clean Elections" anti-corruption programme 2019/2020 in the Sha Tin District, and that the logo of the STDC would be displayed on the publicity materials of the said programme.

2019-2020 District Facilities and Improvement Works Proposals  
(Paper No. STDC 35/2019)

76. The Council unanimously endorsed the above paper.

Duty Visit of the STDC to Zhaoqing  
(Paper No. STDC 36/2019)

77. The Chairman said the STDC made the duty visit to Zhaoqing from 15 April to 17 April 2019. The arrangement of duty visits for individual Members had been amended. The revised delegation list could be found in Annex 2 of the paper and the revised parts were highlighted in italics. Under the "Manual on the Use of Provision of Duty Visits Outside Hong Kong for Members of the DCs", Members participating in the duty visit had to submit documents on the proposed programmes of the duty visit containing the delegation list for the STDC's approval. Members should participate in the entire programme unless approved by the STDC. The Finance and General Affairs Committee (FGAC) had endorsed the revised delegation list of the STDC's duty visit to Zhaoqing for the STDC's approval at the meeting on 16 May of this year. He asked Members to consider whether to approve the revised list.

78. Mr Tiger WONG pointed out that the names of 4 delegation members on the lists of the FGAC and the STDC were not shown on the list of the paper circulated on 9 April. He opined that it would be more complete to include the names of those 4 delegation members who made the duty visit at their own expenses in the list of the STDC's duty visit.

79. Mr James CHAN would like to know why the list endorsed at the meeting of the Working Group on Public Relations and Publicity (WGPRP) included the names of Members' assistants, while the list of the STDC did not.

80. The views of Mr Michael YUNG were summarised below:

- (a) he enquired about the purpose of endorsing the delegation list of the duty visit, saying that whether it was a proof for Members to claim reimbursement of expenses of the duty visit from the HAD;
- (b) he asked how the expenses for transportation and accommodation would be split if a Member left earlier during duty visit;

- (c) he asked on what basis the Secretariat calculated the cost to be shared by Members' assistants who had also participated in the duty visit and the relevant percentage to ensure fairness; and
- (d) he would like to know the progress of the reports on the duty visits to Singapore, the Greater Bay Area and Zhaoqing, and when the reports were expected to be available for public inspection and monitoring of expenses.

81. Mr Derek YUEN said the purpose of this paper was to allow Members to apply to the HAD for reimbursement of the expenses of the duty visit upon the endorsement of the delegation list by the STDC. Since 4 members of the delegation made the duty visit on their own expenses without claiming reimbursement from the HAD, the delegation list in this paper only included Members who had participated in the visit to avoid confusion.

82. Mr David HO, Executive Officer I (District Council)<sup>1</sup> of the STDO gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) regarding the share of cost, the Secretariat was following up this matter with the travel agency, and the shares of persons participating in the duty visit would be calculated according to the service they had actually consumed. As for persons who made the duty visit on their own expenses, they would bear their own cost, which would not be covered by the fund for the STDC's duty visit; and
- (b) regarding the progress of the duty visit reports, the Secretariat was collecting and collating the inputs and photos of the duty visit submitted by Members. The draft of the report would be submitted to the WGPRP after compilation was completed.

83. The Chairman thanked Mr James CHAN for initiating the duty visit to Zhaoqing, Mr Victor LEUNG and Mr WONG Hok-lai for leading the delegation, and Mr David HO from the Secretariat for accompanying and assisting the delegation, which facilitated the smooth running of the duty visit. He said if Members wished to initiate the fourth duty visit, proposal had to be submitted to the WGPRP for follow-up action.

84. Mr SIU Hin-hong said he had not joined the last 3 duty visits, and would like to know whether the reimbursement could be used for charitable or other purposes.

85. The Chairman responded that the STDC would not apply to the HAD for reimbursement of the expenses of duty visit if the Member did not participate in the visit.

86. Mr James CHAN said he originally wished to plan for a visit to Taiwan in late June, but liaison work took time. He welcomed Members to propose other destinations and dates for visit for WGPRP's consideration, or Mr Thomas PANG liaised with the Mainland authorities to invite the STDC for visit in December.

87. Mr Derek YUEN added that as the STDC meetings would be adjourned at the end of this year, duty visits by that time could not be discussed and endorsed by the STDC.

88. Mr WAI Hing-cheung would like to know why the visit to Zhaoqing on the Mainland was called “outbound visit” instead of “inbound visit”.

89. Mr WONG Hok-lai asked why the list of the FGAC included Mr David HO as consultant while the list of the STDC did not.

90. Mr Wilson LI opined that as the delegation visited places outside the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, it was appropriate to refer the visit as “outbound visit”. He also opined that the STDC might plan for duty trips according to the current arrangement and it needed not be invited by other organisations to carry out visits.

91. Mr James CHAN said he originally intended to suggest the Chairman and the Vice-Chairman ask the Central Government to invite 18 District Councils to visit Beijing.

92. The Chairman responded that Mr James CHAN’s proposal could not be included in the visit plan of the STDC of this year.

93. Mr Derek YUEN added that Mr David HO accompanied the delegation but was not the consultant of the delegation.

94. The Council unanimously endorsed the above paper.

### **Information Items**

#### Reports of Committees under the STDC

District Facilities Management Committee  
(Paper No. STDC 37/2019)

Culture, Sports and Community Development Committee  
(Paper No. STDC 38/2019)

Education and Welfare Committee  
(Paper No. STDC 39/2019)

Development and Housing Committee  
(Paper No. STDC 40/2019)

Traffic and Transport Committee  
(Paper Nos. STDC 41/2019 and STDC 41A/2019)

95. Mr WAI Hing-cheung said he had received complaints from residents, saying that the works at Tai Chung Kiu Road caused traffic congestion and were worried that the improvement works in future might cause traffic chaos. He asked the Chairman of the Traffic and Transport Committee (TTC) to take follow-up action with the relevant departments.

96. Mr Michael YUNG said he had also received residents’ complaints, saying that the TD, the Highways Department (HyD) and the Police had closed part of Tai Chung Kiu Road for

field test, and thus causing congestion. He suggested that the TD and the Police report the result of the test of secondary traffic lights, alteration of traffic lights, and give an account of the arrangements of road closure and repair in future at the next meeting of TTC, so that the public would be mentally prepared for the noise caused by the works.

97. Mr LI Sai-wing said the test conducted by the TD and relevant departments did cause traffic congestion. For example, only 1 lane out of 3 lanes of Tai Chung Kiu Road heading towards Sha Tin Rural Committee Road was open. After his discussion with Mr YIP Koon-keung, Ken, Chief Traffic Engineer of the TD, 2 lanes were opened later that day and the impact on the road was reduced. He agreed with Mr Michael YUNG's views that the TD should report the relevant test results and actively review the future arrangement for road closure at the next TTC meeting.

98. Mr Christopher CHIU, Principle Transport Officer / New Territories 1 of the TD said he would convey Members' wish that the TD would report relevant progress at the next TTC meeting to the concerned departmental officers for follow-up actions.

99. The Chairman asked the TD and the Police to note Members' views.

Health and Environment Committee  
(Paper Nos. STDC 42/2019)

Finance and General Affairs Committee  
(Paper No. STDC 43/2019)

100. Mr James CHAN asked whether the theme of combating vice activities and illegal gambling on streets were covered by the "Roving Exhibition on Promotion of Anti-crime Messages @ Sha Tin" held by the Sha Tin District Fight Crime Committee (DFCC). He pointed out that the problem of unlicensed massage shops was still rampant in Fok On Garden. He enquired about the number of law enforcement actions taken by the Police against the unlicensed massage shops and illegal gambling on streets in Ma On Shan over the past year.

101. Mr LI Sai-wing said he was the Chairman of the DFCC. In response to Mr James CHAN's enquiries, he said the above mentioned activity would be organised by a newly formed group under the DFCC, but the content of the exhibition had yet to be finalised. He noted Member's views and would let the group actively consider the relevant themes.

102. Mrs Josephine MAK, District Commander (Shatin) of the HKPF gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) she reiterated that the Police always combated vice activities and illegal gambling on streets vigorously. They also cooperated with the HD and Members, educated the public by distributing leaflets in housing estates;
- (b) she said residents of PRH estates who broke the law would face prosecution, and demerit points would be deducted by the HD, which would affect their tenure of tenancy;
- (c) in response to the unlicensed massage shops in Fok On Garden, the Police would carry out surprise checks at random locations on an irregular basis to strengthen



the law enforcement; and

- (d) regarding Mr James CHAN's enquiry about fight crime activities, she believed it would be a good arrangement to cover publicity and education activities by recurrent expenditure.

103. The Chairman asked the Police to provide relevant data on law enforcement to Mr James CHAN after the meeting.

(Post-meeting notes: the HKPF provided relevant data on law enforcement regarding the unlicensed massage shops and illegal gambling on streets in Ma On Shan as follows:

1. Unlicensed massage shops in Fok On Garden and Fu Fai Garden  
in 2019 (as at 1 May), the Police had carried out 70 inspections on unlicensed massage shops in Fok On Garden and Fu Fai Garden, and arrests were made during 2 of the inspections with the following details:
  - (a) on 20 February 2019, the Police arrested 1 woman in Fok On Garden. She was charged with "management of an unlicensed massage establishment" and granted bail pending trial; and
  - (b) on 23 April 2019, the Police arrested 2 women in Fok On Garden. 1 of them was charged with "management of an unlicensed massage establishment" and granted bail pending trial, and the other one was released.
2. Illegal gambling on streets in Ma On Shan  
the Police carried out patrols against illegal gambling on streets in Ma On Shan regularly. In 2019 (as at 1 May), the Police had carried out 8 actions against illegal gambling on streets and arrested 30 persons, who were fined between \$300 and \$1,200.)

104. The Council noted the 7 committee reports above.

Financial Year 2018-2019 STDC Account Statement  
(Paper No. STDC 44/2019)

Financial Account of the STDC (as at 14 May 2019)  
(Paper No. STDC 45/2019)

105. The Council noted the above papers.

### **Information Papers**

2019-2020 Work Plan of the Sha Tin District Office (STDO)  
(Paper No. STDC 46/2019)

Report of the District Management Committee  
(Paper No. STDC 47/2019)

106. The views of Mr Michael YUNG were summarised below:

- (a) he would like to know the lead department, the scale and operational details of “anti-rodent operation” and “anti-rodent operation in designated target areas”;
- (b) he thanked the STDO and the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) for holding talks and publicity activities in Tai Shui Hang Village and Chevalier Garden on 10 May. He would like to know that after the District Environmental Hygiene Superintendent of the FEHD found out the malpractices and the unsatisfactory hygiene of restaurants in Tai Shui Hang Village during the inspection that day, what follow-up measures the FEHD had taken and what results were found;
- (c) he said rodent infestation happened soon after the “anti-rodent operation” was carried out in Chung On Estate. He asked what effective measures the STDO had to enhance the “anti-rodent operation”; and
- (d) he said the problem did improve after the installation of new steel mesh cover material for the prevention of illegal parking of bicycles. However, the bottom of the bicycle mesh was not sealed and people could still put the chain through the bottom of the mesh and lock their bicycles to the mesh. He suggested that departments should improve the design and the materials of the bicycle mesh when reviewing the effectiveness of the bicycle mesh.

107. The views of Mr James CHAN were summarised below:

- (a) he said the environmental hygiene of Chung On Estate and Kam Fung Court was very good during the 2 weeks of “anti-rodent operation” but the rodent infestation had happened again recently. He opined that the 2-week anti-rodent operation was not effective; and
- (b) he was dissatisfied that the management offices of Chung On Estate and Kam Fung Court never responded to his complaints regarding the uncovered rubbish bins and the breeding of mosquitoes in sewage at the unloading area of the car park managed by the Link Asset Management Limited (the Link). He asked the HD to take proper follow-up actions.

108. The views of Mr YIP Wing were summarised below:

- (a) he opined that the “anti-rodent operation” in Chung On Estate was not effective and pointed out that management offices of housing estates and PRH estates generally neglected environmental hygiene after anti-rodent operations. Apart from baits, he asked whether the FEHD would consider introducing new technology or inviting rodent control experts for rodent prevention and control; and
- (b) he opined that it was not practical for the FEHD to teach the public how to distinguish the species of rodents in talks.

109. The views of Mr WONG Hok-lai were summarised below:

- (a) as rodents had a wide and irregular home range, he suggested that departments carry out multiple “anti-rodent operations” simultaneously to enhance the effectiveness of rodent prevention and control;
- (b) he asked the FEHD to follow up the rodent infestation at the refuse collection point at Heung Fan Liu; and
- (c) he suggested stepping up the removal of shared bicycles abandoned at the riverside and in the district.

110. The views of Mr Wilson LI were summarised below:

- (a) he thanked the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) for their anti-rodent operations at Ma On Shan Waterfront Promenade, which had alleviated the rodent infestation. He asked the FEHD to step up the anti-rodent operations at Wu Kai Sha Village;
- (b) he opined that after the Environmental Protection Department installed CCTV cameras at Lake Silver and Lok Wo Sha Lane, the problem of illegal disposal of construction waste had been alleviated. This could effectively prevent breeding of mosquitoes. However, as there were quite a lot of trees and plants around Villa Athena, residents were worried that infestation of mosquito and pest would become more serious as summer was coming. In view of this, he asked the departments to step up the anti-mosquito and anti-pest operations; and
- (c) he said some bicycles were illegally parked for over 2 months and still had not been removed yet. He enquired about the details of the measures to eradicate illegal parking of bicycles, for example, the timetable of the installation of new parking poles for the prevention of illegally parked bicycles and their exact locations.

111. Ms Amy CHAN, District Officer (Sha Tin) (DO/ST) gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) regarding the prevention and control of rodent infestation, apart from the actions taken by government departments, it was also crucial for residents to work together to maintain the environment hygiene. She said the FEHD, with their expertise, jointly worked with the STDO to divide Sha Tin into smaller areas based on the complaints of rodent infestation in May last year. Rodents might not move across different areas since there were natural barriers in between each area. She cited Pok Hong Estate as an example, and pointed out that the objectives of the first round of “anti-rodent operation” was to improve the hardware design, to share knowledge with and educate residents to help them improve their living habits, with a view to alleviating rodent infestation. The STDO carried out an inspection 6 months after the operation, and found that 2 schools in Pok Hong Estate were still infested by rodents while other areas

remained clean. In view of this, the STDO would discuss with the FEHD about inspecting the 2 schools again to review the scope of the operation, with a view to having a more focused rodent prevention and control operation. It was not feasible to carry out anti-rodent operation in a single designated area for a long period due to limited resources. Therefore, it was very important to teach residents how to prevent and control rodents;

- (b) in response to Mr Michael YUNG's question, "anti-rodent operation" and "anti-rodent operation in designated target areas" were funded by different sources, and therefore they had different project names. However, the content of the 2 projects was the same;
- (c) the result of "anti-rodent operation" in Chung On Estate was just fair because some stakeholders did not complete their work properly and the resources for the operation seemed to be wasted. She stressed that the operation could be effective only if residents and different parties all worked together. She suggested that stakeholders should, as early as possible, point out the problems such as improper disposal of sewage by management offices. Problems could be followed up and dealt with more promptly in such a way than pointing them out afterwards;
- (d) regarding the uncovered bottom of the new steel mesh cover material, the STDO would follow up the issue with the TD and the HyD, and asked the HyD to improve the design to eradicate illegal parking of bicycles;
- (e) she thanked Mr Wilson LI for his information and said the STDO would contact the Member for a more detailed address to follow up the mosquito problem;
- (f) the STDO had accorded priority to allocating resources to combat illegal parking of shared bicycles. This would allow the TD to set up a hotline with the operators of shared bicycles to deal with relevant complaints made by management offices and residents. The STDO would handle illegally parked bicycles which affected environmental hygiene in accordance with established procedures; and
- (g) for the individual cases of illegal parking of bicycles mentioned by Mr Wilson LI, she would discuss with the Lands Department and handle the issue according to the simplified procedure of the department. She said the joint departmental operation would focus on large-scale illegal parking of bicycles. For example, 270 illegally parked bicycles had been removed at Festival City this morning.

112. Mr Derek LAI, District Environmental Hygiene Superintendent (Sha Tin) of the FEHD gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) he said the FEHD carried out 2 rounds of anti-rodent campaign every year. To enhance the effectiveness of the anti-rodent campaign, a 2-month "anti-rodent operation in designated target areas" ("operation") would be carried out after every round of anti-rodent campaign. The first round of "operation" would start in all 18 districts in Hong Kong simultaneously in May this year, and the

second round of “operation” was expected to start in November. Meanwhile, the FEHD would also carry out other anti-rodent work as needed. For example, the “Team Clean” campaign would be launched for 5 consecutive weeks starting from this week. The FEHD had invited Members to jointly disseminate the knowledge of rodent prevention to the restaurants in Tai Wai, and to carry out a comprehensive clean-up and anti-rodent operation in the related alleys. The FEHD would then step up the law enforcement actions in the following 4 weeks;

- (b) the FEHD would actively follow up the deteriorating hygiene of Chung On Estate following the anti-rodent operation as mentioned by Members. The FEHD was also willing to communicate with stakeholders in the district including the Link and management offices, and would disseminate anti-rodent knowledge and give technical advice to them again; and
- (c) the FEHD was prosecuting and sending warning letters to restaurants in Tai Shui Hang Village against their malpractices. If the related restaurants still did not make any improvement, their licenses could be temporarily suspended or revoked.

113. Mr Wilson LI said some bicycles had been illegally parked for half a year and part of them had become mouldy and rusty. He thanked the DO/ST for asking departments to follow up individual cases in a flexible manner. He also thanked the LCSD and the FEHD for removing weeds for mosquito prevention.

114. Mr James CHAN added that the hygiene of Chung On Estate and Kam Fung Court slightly improved right after the management offices had received complaints, but the problem soon recurred. He asked the DO/ST to actively follow up the problem.

115. Mr Michael YUNG opined that the rodent infestation was serious in Tai Shui Hang Village not only because there were many restaurants, but also because the outsourced cleansing service contractor, open air cafes and restaurants owners were inconsiderate and placed rubbish bins with food waste outdoor which attracted rodents. He said there were 6 large rubbish bins in Tai Shui Hang Village, which were not properly covered and were placed outside the bus stop of Chevalier Garden. He opined that such a condition was not satisfactory and he asked the STDO to follow up the problem seriously.

116. Ms Amy CHAN said the review conducted 6 months after the implementation of the “anti-rodent operation” showed that rodent prevention and control was effective in the district. Therefore, she could not agree with Members’ comment that the operation was not effective. Regarding the situation that the residents of Chung On Estate was not very supportive to the “anti-rodent operation”, she would strive to conduct another inspection with the District Environmental Hygiene Superintendent of the FEHD. She said she might need to discuss with Mr James CHAN after the meeting to learn about at what time the relevant management company normally made the area dirty, so that the FEHD could take follow-up action against the malpractices and issue summons if necessary.

Membership Lists of Committees under the STDO  
(Paper No. STDC 48/2019)

117. The Council noted the above paper.

**Date of Next Meeting**

118. The next meeting was scheduled to be held at 2:30 pm on 25 July 2019 (Thursday).

119. The meeting was adjourned at 7:49 pm.

Sha Tin District Council Secretariat  
STDC 13/15/50

June 2019