

# COUNCIL FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

## Digest of Meeting on 1 April 2003

<b>Date</b>	: 1 April 2003
<b>Time</b>	: 2.30 – 4.30 pm
<b>Chairman</b>	: Mr Donald TSANG, Chief Secretary for Administration
<b>Vice-chairman</b>	: Dr Edgar CHENG
<b>Members</b>	: Dr Lily CHIANG Ms CHOY So-yuk Mr Barrie COOK Ms Christine FANG Mr Michael JEBSEN Mr Thomas KWOK Professor LAM Kin-che Mr Andrew LIAO Ir Otto POON Mr TAI Hay-lap Mr TIK Chi-yuen
<b>Official Members</b>	: Mr Stephen IP, Secretary for Economic Development and Labour
<b>Apologies</b>	: Professor TSUI Lap-chee Dr Sarah LIAO, Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works Mr Michael SUEN, Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands Dr E K YEOH, Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food
<b>In attendance</b>	: Mr Andrew WONG, Director of Administration (D of Adm) Ms CHANG King-yiu, Deputy Director of Administration (DD of Adm)
<b>Secretary</b>	: Mr Jonathan McKINLEY, Assistant Director of Administration

### Item 1 – Opening Remarks by the Chairman

The Chairman said that the establishment of the Council was an important step in building a community-wide partnership to pursue sustainability for Hong Kong. The subject was an issue of high priority, and the Government would listen carefully to the expert advice of the Council.

Members agreed that the Council's operation should be as transparent as possible so as to keep the general public well informed of its work. The agenda, discussion papers and a digest of discussion at meetings would be made available online for public information.

Having considered the need for a “tailor-made” definition of “sustainable development” for Hong Kong, Members agreed to adopt initially the definition in the report of the UN World Commission on Development and Environment. A more pressing issue was how to promote and implement sustainable development in Hong Kong.

**Item 2 – Terms of Reference and Establishment of Sub-committees (Paper 01/03)**

In discussing the proposed terms of reference, Members noted that these were broadly cast in order not to restrict the Council's role. As regards the SD strategy, Members agreed that this should include reference to implementation plans. The Council adopted the terms of reference proposed, subject to the following amendment to item (c) –

‘To facilitate community participation in the promotion of sustainable development in Hong Kong **through various means**, including the award of grants from the Sustainable Development Fund.’

Members agreed to set up two sub-committees, the Strategy Sub-committee and Education & Publicity Sub-committee, to be chaired by Dr Edgar Cheng and Ms Christine Fang respectively. The Council authorised the respective chairmen to co-opt stakeholders from outside the Council to sit on the sub-committees.

**Item 3 – Establishment of the Sustainable Development Fund (Paper 02/03)**

Members discussed the scope and purpose of the Fund and agreed that one of its main aims should be to promote –

“public understanding of the importance of advancing the economic, social and environmental interests of the community in a balanced and integrated manner.”

In response to Members' views on the proposed annual ceiling for the amount to be given out in grants, the Administration explained this would facilitate the forecast and monitoring of cash flow. The Council could review the appropriate level of the ceiling in the light of operational experience. Members agreed that there should be no arbitrary limit on the timeframe for implementing projects that had received grants from the Fund.

As regards the monitoring of projects supported by the Fund, Members agreed that a proviso be added to the proposed funding guidelines requiring the project proponents to make regular reports on progress and provide an overall evaluation of the project's outcome.

Members agreed that no organisation should be automatically barred from applying for a grant from the Fund and no particular type of initiative should be precluded as long as the project would help further the objectives of the Fund.

**Item 4 – Formulating a Sustainable Development Strategy for Hong Kong (Paper 03/03)**

Council Members agreed that an SD strategy should lay down a broad framework for the long-term sustainable development of Hong Kong. There would be diverse views on the scope, coverage and objectives of the strategy and hence the consultation process had to be

as open as possible. All interested stakeholders should be consulted before the Council would be asked to endorse such a strategy.

Members agreed that the SD strategy should be broad in scope, and that it might be helpful to include reference to the whole Pearl River Delta (PRD) region. The Chairman asked the Strategy Sub-committee to begin work on the formulation of an SD strategy and to report back to the next council meeting on its initial findings.

#### **Item 5 – Working Arrangements for Council Meetings (Paper 04/03)**

Members agreed with the proposals set out in the paper, adding that the sub-committees might open their meetings to a wider audience where appropriate.

Council Members also agreed that setting up a web resource centre providing information, literature and research data on local and international sustainable development issues might help stimulate dialogue among stakeholders and between the Council and the wider community on this issue. The Education & Publication Sub-committee would look into this suggestion.

#### **Item 6 – Any Other Business**

The Council noted that the Legislative Council Panel on Environmental Affairs would invite Members to a meeting to exchange views with stakeholders.

#### **Item 7 – Date of Next Meeting**

The second meeting of the Council was scheduled for 2 June 2003.

Council Secretariat  
April 2003