

COUNCIL FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Digest of Notes of meeting held on 18 April 2005

- Chairman** : Mr Donald TSANG, Chief Secretary for Administration
- Vice-chairman** : Dr Edgar CHENG
- Members** : Dr Lily CHIANG
Ms CHOY So-yuk
Ms Christine FANG
Mr Hans Michael JEBSEN
Mr Thomas KWOK
Mr Michael LAI
Mr Andrew LIAO
Ir. Otto POON
Mr TAI Hay-lap
- Official Members** : Mr Stephen IP, Secretary for Economic Development & Labour (SEDL)
Dr Sarah LIAO, Secretary for the Environment, Transport & Works (SETW)
- Apologies** : Mr Barrie COOK
Professor LAM Kin-che
Professor TSUI Lap-chee
Mr Michael SUEN, Secretary for Housing, Planning & Lands (SPHL)
Dr York CHOW, Secretary for Health, Welfare & Food (SHWF)
- In attendance** : Ms CHANG King-yiu, Director of Administration (D of Admin)
Mrs Susan MAK, Deputy Director of Administration (DD of Admin)
Miss Linda SO, Senior Administrative Officer (SD) 2
- Secretary** : Mr Jonathan McKinley, Assistant Director of Administration (SD) 2

Item 1 - Matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting

Members noted that a summary of views expressed by Members at the last meeting on the further development of Lantau had been forwarded to the Lantau Development Task Force for consideration. Members had also offered detailed comments on the Council report on the engagement process, and these had been incorporated in the final version.

Item 2 – The First SD Strategy for Hong Kong (Paper 05/05)

Members noted that the first Sustainable Development (SD) Strategy for Hong Kong set out the Government's plan of action in the three Pilot Areas, in response to the Council's report on the engagement process. The engagement process had broken new ground in providing a forum for interactive discussion on specific areas, and allowing the community to participate early in identifying options through informed discussion.

Members discussed the proposed targets for Renewable Energy (RE) in the Council report, and noted that these represented an initial goal and should be regularly revisited. The fact that RE development had been put firmly on the policy agenda represented a major achievement of the engagement process.

Regarding the monitoring of the Government's implementation of its plan of action, it was noted that the relevant bureaux would submit regular progress reports to the Council, and these would also be available on the website for public information.

Members would review the draft SD Strategy and inform the Secretariat of any areas in which they considered the Government should further refine its response.

Item 3 – Future Areas of Work for the Council (Paper 06/05)

Members noted the proposals to provide a monthly update on Sustainability Assessment (SA) reports for major new public policies and proposals that were in the public domain, and for the Council to commission its own research into specific sustainability issues.

Members also referred to a submission from the People's Council for Sustainable Development (PCSD), which had raised areas of concern and proposed reform measures for the Council. Council Members would meet PCSD representatives to discuss the issues raised.

Members agreed that SD was a difficult concept for the public to comprehend fully, and it would be a long-term task to promote SD principles in the wider community. Members further agreed that funding should be allocated from the SD Fund for research purposes.

Members requested a briefing on the Government's SA system at the next meeting.

Item 4 – Taking Forward the Sustainable Development Strategy (Paper 07/05)

The Strategy Sub-committee (SSC) was re-established to spearhead the coming rounds of the engagement process. Ir Otto Poon was invited to chair the Sub-committee.

Members discussed the review of the first engagement process, and proposed areas for improvement, in particular the need to involve stakeholders at an early stage in selecting topics for the next engagement process.

The SSC would consider the timing of the launch of the Council report and the SD Strategy, as well as the stakeholder forum to invite views on new topics. The Council would meet again to consider potential new Priority Areas.

Item 5 – Education and Publicity Programmes and Initiatives (Paper 08/05)

The Education and Publicity Sub-committee (EPSC) was re-established and tasked to continue its work in raising public awareness of SD, including advising on the award of grants from the SD Fund. Ms Christine Fang was invited to continue to chair the Sub-committee.

Members considered that new education and publicity programmes should target young people as a matter of priority. The publicity programmes to be organised by the EPSC might also help promote community involvement in building the SD Strategy. Publicity and strategy events and related studies could be supported by allocations from the SD Fund, up to a limit of \$2 million annually.

Item 6 - Any other business

There was no other business.