

COUNCIL FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Digest of Notes of meeting held on 2 May 2006

- Date** : 2 May 2006
Time : 3:00 p.m.
Venue : Conference Room, 5/F, Central Government Offices Main Wing
- Chairman** : Mr Rafael HUI, 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 Michael LAI
Professor LAM Kin-che
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)
Mr Michael SUEN, Secretary for Housing, Planning & Lands (SPHL)
- Apologies** : Mr Barrie COOK
Mr Thomas KWOK
Mr Andrew LIAO
Professor TSUI Lap-chee
Dr York CHOW, Secretary for Health, Welfare & Food (SHWF)
- In attendance** : Miss Elizabeth TSE, 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** : Mrs Vicki KWOK, Assistant Director of Administration (SD) 2 (ADA(SD)2)

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

The minutes of last meeting had been confirmed by circulation and that a digest of proceedings had been posted on the SDU website.

Item 2 – Report of the Study Group on Better Air Quality (Paper 02/06)

The Study Group report provided information on a wide range of issues related to the air quality. The proposed options were divided into two categories – those that the Council would take a position on and those that would entail stakeholder engagement.

Members considered that the direct and indirect costs and benefits of the proposed measures should be further considered, including the economic and social costs, as well as health implications. Stakeholders had expectations of visible results.

Members noted that the Government should develop an overall strategy to address the air quality issue, probably under the aegis of ETWB. Members agreed that the issue of congestion charging mechanisms should be put forward for stakeholder discussion.

Members endorsed the Study Group report, and advised that a Council report would be prepared on the basis of it. Members also discussed the possible public confusion about the separate publication of a Council report and an Invitation and Response (IR) document at a later stage.

Item 3 – Second Engagement Process on Population Policy (Paper 03/06)

The Support Group on Population Policy was established with members from the Strategy Sub-committee, academics and experts in the field, District Council members and Government representatives. The IR document outlined the background on the Hong Kong demographic trends and overseas experience, as well as the options for a sustainable population policy for Hong Kong.

The Commission on Strategic Development's Committee on Social Development and Quality of Life commended the approach of the engagement process, and their views had been incorporated in the latest draft IR document.

Members also exchanged views on the engagement network and questions to be put forward for public discussion.

Item 4 – Update on Education and Publicity Programmes and Initiatives (Paper 04/06)

The fourth round of SD Fund applications would soon be launched. The school and community outreach programmes would continue to build up the critical mass of people in the community who were aware of SD.

The Education and Publicity Sub-committee would work with the District Councils to enhance the community outreach network. The Sub-committee would also work with the EMB in relation to the Liberal Studies subject that would encompass SD issues.

Item 5 - Any other business

An Information Note on Implementation Progress of the First SD Strategy had been issued to Members. The implementation progress report would be uploaded to the website and sent to all stakeholders who participated in the first engagement process. This would help promote the community ownership of the engagement process.

Council Secretariat
September 2006