

# **COUNCIL FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

## **Education and Publicity Sub-committee**

### **Digest of Meeting on 2 July 2003**

<b>Date</b>	: 2 July 2003
<b>Time</b>	: 11.00 am
<b>Chair</b>	: Ms Christine Fang
<b>Members</b>	: Ms Choy So-yuk Ms Jacqueline Cheng Mr Chong Chan-yau Mr Frederick Lai Mr Michael Lai, JP Ms Mei Ng, BBS Dr Andrew Thomson
<b>Apologies</b>	: Ms Juliana Chen, Deputy Director of Information Service Mr Tai Hay-lap, JP Mr Hans Michael Jebsen, BBS
<b>In attendance</b>	: Ms Chang King-yiu, Deputy Director of Administration (DD of Adm)1 Ms Lily Yam, Senior Town Planner, SDU Mr Dennis Mok, Forestry Officer (Sustainable Development), SDU
<b>Secretary</b>	: Mr Jonathan McKinley, Assistant Director of Administration (Sustainable Development)2

#### **Item 1 – Confirmation of the minutes of the last meeting**

Members confirmed the minutes without amendment.

#### **Item 2 – Matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting**

The matters arising would be addressed in Papers 04/03 and 05/03 for discussion under Agenda Items 3 and 4 respectively.

#### **Item 3 – Launch of the Sustainable Development Fund (Paper 04/03)**

Some of the proposed application guidelines had been amended to take account of the comments made by Members of the Legislative Council Finance Committee.

For applications to fund scholarships, Members considered that applicants should be required to show clearly the benefit that the courses of study would bring to the community. Grant recipients could be required to share their acquired expertise with NGOs.

Members considered that applicants, whether they were organisations or individuals, should provide information on their “track record”, with particular regard to successful projects that they had completed.

Some Members had reservations on accepting applications for projects taking place outside Hong Kong. While comparative studies or conferences on, for example, cross-border issues could be relevant to promoting awareness in Hong Kong, applications for grants for such projects should clearly state the proposed benefits for the local community.

Members agreed that the Vetting Committee (VC) should assess SDF applications based on the guidelines set by EPSC. The Sub-committee could suggest giving priority to certain types of application during different funding cycles.

The Sub-committee noted the procedure involved for processing applications. A flowchart would be included in the application guidelines to help applicants understand the overall application and assessment procedures. A vetting checklist would be drawn up to enable the VC to operate in a consistent and comprehensive manner. Any appeals from unsuccessful applicants could be considered by the EPSC.

The SDU would advise applicants on how to complete application forms and present their applications.

Members considered that recipients of SDF grants could conduct surveys on public awareness of sustainable development before and after completion of their projects, and set out the outcome in their reports to substantiate the effectiveness of their projects.

The Sub-committee agreed that once approved projects had been completed, the benefits of these projects should be widely publicised in order to promote education for sustainability.

Members with a potential conflict of interest would refrain from discussing relevant applications.

#### **Item 4 – Education and Publicity Programme 2003-2004 (Paper 05/03)**

A “train the trainers” approach was suggested as a way of sustaining the impact of the School Outreach Programme. Projects could also be conducted whereby schools could help develop campaign themes and materials. The SDU would circulate information on the School Outreach Programme to Members and invite them to observe school talks.

The Sub-committee considered that the School Outreach Programme could be extended to other organizations, to help facilitate capacity building for NGOs. An annual “mock” summit on sustainable development could be held to encourage students to share experience and views on sustainable development.

Priority should be given to the setting up of a web-based resource centre, rather than the publication of another information booklet.

The SDU would prepare a proposal for an education and publicity strategy for discussion at the next meeting. Members would write to the SDU with their views on this.

**Item 5 – Any Other Business**

Members noted that the SDU would confirm membership of the SDF Vetting Committee.

**Item 6 – Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting would be held in October.

Council Secretariat  
October 2003