

COUNCIL FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
EDUCATION AND PUBLICITY SUB-COMMITTEE

Digest of Meeting on 6 February 2004

- Chair** : Ms Christine Fang
- Members** : Hon. Choy So-yuk
Mr Tai Hay-lap
Ms Jacqueline Cheng
Mr Chong Chan-yau
Mr Frederick Lai
Mr Michael Lai
Ms Mei Ng
Dr Andrew Thomson
- Apologies** : Mr Michael Jebsen
Mrs Juliana Chen, Deputy Director of Information Services
- In attendance** : Ms Chang King-yiu, Deputy Director of Administration (DD of Admin)
Ms Lily Yam, Senior Town Planner, SDU
Mr C. P. Li, Senior Executive Officer, SDU
Mr Dennis Mok, Forestry Officer (Sustainable Development), SDU
- Secretary** : Mr Jonathan McKinley, Assistant Director of Administration (Sustainable Development) 2

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

Members confirmed the minutes without amendment.

A detailed draft education and publicity strategy with an outline plan of action was being prepared by the SDU. The Chair together with a few members would form a small group to help draft the strategy.

Item 2 – Sustainable Development Fund (SDF) – First Round Applications (Paper 01/04)

A number of members made declarations of interest, in accordance with agreed guidelines. Declarations of interest are recorded in the attached table.

Members noted the screening process for SDF applications. The Secretary said that the Sustainable Development Unit (SDU) had received 127 applications, for grants totalling some \$138 million. The Vetting Committee (VC) had conducted a preliminary assessment of all the applications and agreed that 32 were suitable for further detailed consideration. The SDU had then conducted a detailed appraisal of these applications using the standard assessment form at Annex C of the Paper. At its meeting on 28 January, the VC had considered the applications, taking note of the SDU comments, and had made the recommendations at Annex A of the Paper.

The Secretary clarified that, at the preliminary assessment stage, if applicants had sent in multiple submissions, the VC had only considered the one that had been given top priority by the applicant. Key assessment criteria included: the nature and scope of the project; its likely impact on community awareness of sustainable development principles and practices; the number of participants involved; partner organisations involved; likely difficulty in finding alternative sources of funds for projects; the feasibility of implementation programmes; and track records of the applicants. Where there were several similar proposals, in terms of project nature and target groups, only those that best met the key criteria had been selected for detailed assessment. When considering applications in detail, the VC had not used the potential cost of projects as an assessment criterion. If necessary, the SDU would further discuss with applicants appropriate budgets for project funding.

Members noted that the SDU had consulted other government fund secretariats to avoid possible duplication of resources. If necessary, the SDU would take advice from other government departments or relevant experts on the technical viability of applications. However, the effectiveness of the project in achieving the SDF objectives would be the main consideration in the assessment process.

SDF 007 - Education for Sustainable Development in Primary School

Members noted the project's clear objectives, the well-defined project scope and the track record of the applicant, and agreed that it would help teachers and parents promote the principles of SD. The teaching tool would complement the school curriculum. Members recommended that this application be **approved**.

SDF 048 – Establishing an SD Community: To promote SD Community through Green Networks

Members noted that the applicant was a “green school award” winner and that the project would help primary school students in Tuen Mun learn about SD. Based on the consideration that the project would involve action in the community and that such community-initiated “bottom-up” approaches to raising awareness should be encouraged, Members recommended that this application be **approved**.

SDF 047 – Sustainable Management of Coastal Wetland in Hong Kong and South China

Members noted that there were already a number of wetland studies taking place in Hong Kong and that this project might duplicate existing work. Although the education and community engagement element of the project was clear, the project cost was considered high. Some members questioned the long-term sustainability of the project and whether it could lead to effective management of coastal wetland throughout South China. The Secretariat would seek information on other, similar initiatives currently in progress. Members agreed to review the project details and forward any queries to the Secretariat for clarification before making a decision on the application.

SDF 056 – Urban Green

It was noted that application no. SDF 113, which was similar in nature to the subject application, was not recommended at the initial assessment stage. Members agreed to review SDF 113 using the same assessment criteria as for SDF 056, with a view to ensuring a fair assessment for both applications.

Members had a number of specific queries on several of the other applications. Members were asked to review the remaining applications and forward their comments and queries to the Secretariat before 13 February, so that further clarification with applicants could be sought in a timely manner.

Item 3 – Any Other Business

There was no other business.

Item 4 – Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting would be held in early March.

Council Secretariat
February 2004

Members	Declaration of Interest made at the EPSC meeting on 6 February 2004
Ms Christine Fang	Any applications submitted by NGOs under or related to the Hong Kong Council of Social Service
Mr Chong Chan-yau	SDF008 - Being an executive member of the Hong Kong People's Council for Sustainable Development
Ms Choy So-yuk	SDF008 – Being a member of the Hong Kong People's Council for Sustainable Development
Mr Frederick Lai	SDF045, 058 and 110 – Being a staff member of Caritas which is the applicant concerned SDF008 – Being a member of the Hong Kong People's Council for Sustainable Development
Mr Michael Lai	SDF078 – Being the Chief Executive Officer of the applicant, the St. James Settlement
Ms Mei Ng	SDF020 and 100 – Being the Director of Friends of the Earth which is the supporting organization of the applications
Mr Tai Hay-lap	SDF007 – Being an advisor to the applicant SDF020 – Being a staff member of Yan Oi Tong which is the applicant SDF088 – Being a Board Director of the Hong Kong Policy Research Institute Ltd., the partner organization of the application
Dr. Andrew Thomson	SDF126 – Being a member of the Sustainability Reporting Network