

COUNCIL FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
EDUCATION AND PUBLICITY SUB-COMMITTEE

Digest of meeting held on 8 December 2004

Members Present

Chair : Ms Christine Fang

Members : Dr Andrew Thomson

: Mr Tai Hay-lap

Ms Jacqueline Cheng

Mr Michael Lai

Mrs Juliana Chen, Deputy Director of Information Services

Apologies Mr Hans Michael Jebsen

Mr Chong Chan-yau

Hon. Choy So-yuk

Mrs Mei Ng

Mr Frederick Lai

In attendance : Mrs Susan Mak, Deputy Director of Administration (DD of Admin)

Ms Lily Yam, Senior Town Planner, SDU

Mr C. P. Li, Senior Executive Officer, SDU

Ms Caroline Pang, Town Planner, SDU

Secretary : Mr Jonathan McKinley, Assistant Director of Administration (Sustainable Development) 2

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

Members noted that the minutes had been confirmed by circulation and that a digest would be uploaded onto the Sustainable Development Unit (SDU) website. Matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting would be discussed under Item 3.

Item 2 – Sustainable Development Fund – Second Round of Applications (Paper 09/04)

Members considered the advice of the Vetting Committee with regard to applications to the Sustainable Development Fund and discussed each of the applications in turn. The recommendations of the EPSC would be put to the full Council for consideration and advice.

Item 3 – Sustainability Reporting Initiative (Paper 010/04)

The Chair invited Members' views on a possible sustainability reporting initiative. Members agreed that it would be advantageous to have a sustainability reporting system as an educational tool to help promote public awareness of SD, to keep track of Hong Kong's progress towards sustainability and serve as a benchmarking exercise.

Members also agreed on the following:

Sustainability Indicators

Members agreed that a single set of indicators should be adopted to avoid confusion. The formulation of the indicators could build on the SD Strategy engagement process initiated by the Council, which involved a high level of stakeholder engagement.

Approach to reporting

Members agreed to let the Council determine whether SD reporting should be required from individual government departments or involve Hong Kong as a whole. Members also agreed that it was necessary to set clear objectives for the Council's consideration.

Implementation

Members noted that substantial resources in terms of financial support and expertise would be required to implement the project. The Secretary confirmed that the Council had agreed that up to \$2 million annually could be earmarked from the SD Fund to carry out tasks in relation to the SD strategy or the EPSC programmes, therefore there should be sufficient resources to undertake the project. Members also agreed to arrange a joint session with the Strategy Sub-committee to discuss the framework of the reporting exercise.

Item 4 – Any Other Business

The Chair reported that the Youth Forum on Sustainable Development, jointly convened by the Council and the Hong Kong Federation of Youth Groups – Leadership 21 had been held on 5 December 2004. About 300 young people had taken part in the forum. The

Action

Secretary said that a forum report would be uploaded on the SDU and SD Strategy websites in due course.

Item 5 – Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting would be held in February 2005 to consider the implementation details for the additional education and publicity initiatives and the content of the report on the first two rounds of SDF applications.

Council Secretariat
February 2005