

COUNCIL FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Strategy Sub-committee

Meeting on 2 June 2005

Digest of Proceedings

Chairman : Ir Otto POON

Members : Dr CHAN Wai-kwan
Ms CHOY So-yuk
Mr Albert LAI
Mr Aloysius LEE
Mr Chandran NAIR
Mr Ali TUET
Ms Luciana WONG

Apologies : Dr Lily CHIANG
Ms Anne COPELAND CHIU
Mr CHUA Hoi-wai
Mr Michael JEBSEN
Professor LAM Kin-che

In attendance : Miss Linda SO, Senior Administrative Officer (SD) 2

Secretary : Mr Jonathan MCKINLEY, Assistant Director of Administration (SD) 2

Item 1 – Paper 02/05 “Building on the First Engagement Process”

Members noted that the first engagement process was implemented successfully, but there was a need to review the process devised by the Council and the Strategy Sub-committee (SSC). Members considered the recommendations in the paper.

With regard to Stage I of the engagement process, Members supported the suggestion to enhance public involvement in the selection of Priority Areas, and considered it important to relate the individual areas to the central theme of sustainable development (SD). Members agreed that appropriate guidance should be developed to facilitate public discussion at the stakeholder forum, taking account of local and overseas work in establishing principles for priority issues for SD.

The stakeholder forum would provide a platform for open and informed discussion, the outcome of which would form a basis for the Council to consider new Priority Areas. Members noted that three Pilot Areas were too many for a single engagement exercise of this nature, and the Council had decided to process the new Priority Areas one-by-one. Members discussed the means to assess stakeholder preferences, and considered that the SSC should propose a prioritised list for the Council's consideration.

As for Stage II of the engagement process, Members supported the proposal to establish Support Groups to spearhead the process for the new Priority Areas, and noted the option of engaging dedicated research support to help collect extensive information for the community's reference. Members considered that third party dedicated research support would help improve the quality of the IR document and enhance the independence of the process. On the other hand, Members also cautioned against the process being detached from the Government's policy-making process.

Commenting on Stage IV of the engagement process, Members considered that the outcome of the process would be judged based on the Council report, and it should reflect the content of stakeholder discussions. Members noted that detailed reports on the events of the engagement process and the online forum were available on the SD Strategy website for public information, and the key principles were put to the SD Strategy Summit for discussion before their inclusion in the Council report. The Rapporteur engaged for the first exercise acted as an independent resource for the Council. Members proposed enhancing this process by engaging an independent agency to prepare a parallel report in consultation with community stakeholders, in addition to the Council's own report.

As for Stage V, Members considered that the SD Strategy was a living document, and hoped that the connection between Council and SSC Members and stakeholders could continue, either in the form of SG or some other kind of support networks.

Item 2 – Paper 03/05 “Stakeholder Forum on new Priority Areas for the Sustainable Development Strategy”

Members supported the more extensive involvement of young people in the discussion, and suggested a number of groups and organisations that the Council might approach in order to reach out to a wider sector of the community.

Background information and guidance on SD principles would be provided to focus the stakeholder discussion on issues related to SD. Members also agreed that the SSC would come up with a short list of “example” Priority Areas for discussion at the forum.

Item 3 – Any Other Business

The Council had earlier advised that the SD Fund could be used to finance its activities. Members noted this and agreed to Fund being used to support the stakeholder forum, subject to a proposed ceiling budget.

Item 4 – Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting would be in August 2005.

(Post-meeting note: Professor Peter Hills informed the Chairman of his decision to resign from the SSC with immediate effect.)

Council Secretariat
August 2005