

COUNCIL FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Strategy Sub-committee

Date : 27 May 2003

Time : 3.00 pm

Chairman : Dr Edgar Cheng

Members : Dr Lily Chiang

Ms Choy So-yuk

Professor Lam Kin-che

Dr Sarah Liao, Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works (SETW)

Mr Tik Chi-yuen

Ms Anne Copeland Chiu

Professor Peter Hills

Mr Albert Lai

Dr Joseph Lian

Mr Ng Shui-lai

Apology : Ir Otto Poon

In attendance : Ms Chang King-yiu, Deputy Director of Administration (DD of Admin)

Mr Eric K Lee, Senior Administrative Officer (SD) 2

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

Item 1 – Confirmation of the minutes of the last meeting

The SDU would post a digest of the minutes online for public review.

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

Members noted that matters arising would be discussed under the relevant agenda items.

Item 3 – Preliminary ideas for a Draft Structure for a Hong Kong Sustainable Development Strategy (Paper 04/03)

Paper 04/03 set out a notional framework for a Sustainable Development (SD) Strategy, further developing the views expressed at the last meeting. Members agreed that the Sub-Committee should work on the overall structure for the strategy before going into further detail.

Members suggested that the SD Strategy have a preamble that set out clearly the pros and cons of pursuing sustainable development.

Members considered that the vision statement should not only contain a definition of “sustainable development” for Hong Kong, but it should also set out a vision for Hong Kong and describe how to achieve sustainable goals. It should be inspirational, easily

understood and people-focused. However, the vision statement should not be so “concrete” that it limited the scope of the strategy, which should be a flexible document rather than a rigid blueprint for implementation.

As regards the substance of the vision statement, it was suggested that Hong Kong aspire to being a role model for sustainable development in the region. Further, we could explicitly aim to achieve “societal equity” for this and future generations and describe a participatory process for implementing and regularly reviewing the strategy. It was felt that the vision statement should convey the idea of “integration” rather than “balancing”, so as to connote benefit for all rather than imply the need for concessions by affected parties. Members commented that formulating an SD Strategy was a consensus building process in which stakeholders discussed the priority areas to be addressed. “Trading off” or “balancing” interests and priorities was a fact of life that the community would recognise.

In relation to the framework for the strategy, Members noted that the “stock of capital” approach was an attempt to show the links between different priority areas in an integrated manner. Members generally agreed with the principles behind the “stock of capital” approach, while noting that care would need to be taken in presenting this to the stakeholders early in the consultation process.

Item 4 – Stakeholder Engagement and Public Involvement in the Sustainable Development Strategy Formulation (Paper 05/03)

Members noted the proposed approach under which the initial focus would be on consultation with “informed” stakeholders before taking the strategy out to the wider community.

It was noted that the formulation of the strategy was a complex task. Members generally agreed to the “roundtable” approach, which would allow participation by civil society, the private sector and the government in drawing up the strategy. It was suggested that the SDU draw on previous experience with the “Susdev 21” and “2030” studies, as well as overseas practice, in drawing up the proposed consultation process. Members noted that it would be necessary to put in place a mechanism that would collect feedback from those involved in the consultation process with a view to refining and improving the process in the future. A timetable would need to be drawn up for this exercise and the commitment of government departments had to be secured.

There was no other business.

Date of next meeting

The SDU would advise members of the details of the next meeting in due course.

Council Secretariat
June 2003