

COUNCIL FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Strategy Sub-committee

Meeting on 11 January 2006

Digest of Proceedings

Chairman : Ir Otto POON

Members : Dr CHAN Wai-kwan
Mr CHUA Hoi-wai
Mr Michael JEBSEN
Mr Albert LAI
Professor LAM Kin-che
Mr Chandran NAIR
Mr Ali TUET
Ms Luciana WONG
Professor WONG Siu-lun

Apologies : Dr Lily CHIANG
Ms Anne COPELAND CHIU
Ms CHOY So-yuk
Mr Aloysius LEE

In attendance : Miss Linda SO, Senior Administrative Officer (SD) 2
Miss Stella CHANG, Senior Administrative Officer (SD) 1

Secretary : Mrs Vicki KWOK, Assistant Director of Administration (SD) 2

Item 1 – Matters arising from the minutes of last meeting

Members welcomed Professor Wong Siu-lun to the Strategy Sub-committee (SSC) and as the Convenor of the Support Group on Population Policy. Members noted that the draft minutes of the last meeting had been confirmed by circulation. The SDU had posted a digest of proceedings on its website.

Item 2 – Paper 01/06 “Subsequent Stages of the Second Engagement Process”

Members noted that the Council decided on 16 December 2005 to take forward the two priority areas of air quality and population policy. A Study Group was set up under the chairmanship of the Council Vice-Chairman to address the air quality issue; and the SSC was tasked to follow up on the population policy by way of a public engagement process.

Members noted the proposed composition of the stakeholder-led Support Group to be established for the Priority Area of Population Policy. Members agreed that a broader representation for the Support Group and the past experience from Members would be beneficial. The Government members were equal partners in the process, and it was not meant for them to defend their policies in the Support Group. On the other hand, the Commission on Strategic Development might also discuss the population policy related issues shortly.

Members considered that it would be important to find a reasonable balance between the population size, the resources supporting it and the quality of life. As the population policy was a broad topic, it would be prudent to define the sustainability aspects of the issue (i.e. economic, social and environmental perspectives). Members considered that there might be a dilemma between exploring the broad sustainability perspectives of population, and the need to be selective in scoping topics with a view to delivering concrete policy outcome. Members noted that the objectives of the engagement process were to influence the public perception and the outcome of the subject, as well as to raise the public awareness of the issues.

The Support Group was tasked to formulate the discussion scope of the priority area, in the light of Members' views. The Support Group would also further consider the partnership arrangement and timetable for the second engagement process.

Item 3 – Any Other Business

Members discussed the Administration's progress in implementing the First Sustainable Development Strategy for Hong Kong, the ways to gather information about sustainable development activities in the community, and the monthly reports on the Sustainability Assessments on major new public policies and proposals prepared by the SDU.

Item 4 – Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting would consider the work progress of the Support Group. The Secretary would confirm the date nearer the time.

Council Secretariat
February 2006