

COUNCIL FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Strategy Sub-committee

**Meeting on 24 January 2008
Digest of Proceedings**

Chairman : Ir Otto Poon

Members : Mr Michael Jebsen
Dr Chan Wai-kwan
Mr Chua Hoi-wai
Ms Anne Copeland Chiu
Dr Susan Fan
Dr Alexis Lau
Mr Chandran Nair
Dr Ng Cho-nam
Dr Andrew Thomson
Ms Luciana Wong
Professor Wong Siu-lun

Apologies : Dr Lily Chiang
Hon Choy So-yuk
Professor Lam Kin-che
Ms Carmen Chan
Dr Anissa Chan
Mr Albert Lai
Mr Ali Tuet

In attendance : Dr Thomas Tang, Global Institute for Tomorrow (Programme Director)
Mr Roy Tang, Deputy Secretary for the Environment
Ms Vivian Tsang, Senior Town Planner (Sustainable Development)
Miss Stella Chang, Assistant Secretary (Sustainable Development)¹
Ms Elisa Leung, Assistant Secretary (Sustainable Development)²

Secretary : Mrs Vicki Kwok, Principal Assistant Secretary (Sustainable Development)

Item 1 – Matters arising from the minutes of last meeting

Members noted that the draft minutes of the last meeting had been circulated and finalised with Members' comment incorporated. The SDD had posted a non-attributable digest of proceedings on its website.

The only outstanding issue was the brainstorming session to be organised for Council and Sub-Committee Members on the Council's way forward. Members noted that the Secretariat was lining up the brainstorming session, which was expected to take place in March.

Item 2 – Draft Council Report on the engagement process on Better Air Quality

Members discussed the proposed recommendations of the draft Council Report on the engagement process on Better Air Quality (BAQ). Members noted that the draft report had captured all the salient issues and feedback made in the engagement process as checked with the Social Sciences Research Centre of the University of Hong Kong (Independent Reporting Agency).

Members suggested including some statistics on the majority views gathered from the BAQ engagement process to support the recommendations proposed in the draft report. Members were also of the view that the weighting given to individual recommendations in the Executive Summary should be revised to tally with the more balanced one given to the various recommendations in the main body of the draft report. Members also suggested that for better presentation and to avoid any confusion on the part of the reader, issues which the public had not been directly consulted on in the BAQ engagement process should be grouped together and separated from those recommendations arising directly from the engagement process.

Some Members considered that as institutional issues had been talked about by people in the course of the engagement process, notwithstanding the topic was not put forth as such for consultation with the public, the draft report could propose options to deal with it although "how" this should be dealt with was another issue. Other Members were of the view that the draft Council report might stop short at flagging up the issues and give the Government a free hand to formulate the right policy tools. The meeting noted that implementation of clean air initiatives involved legislative work and enforcement issues and required close interface with different policy bureaux and departments. Regional cooperation with the Pearl River Delta, which required government-to-government liaison and cooperation, was also critical in dealing with the air quality in Hong Kong.

Members suggested that while the draft report should focus mostly on what we could do in Hong Kong, it should also recognise the significance of the

pollution from the Pearl River Delta (PRD) and recommend that the Government, and Hong Kong-owned businesses, push hard for more cooperation with PRD governments to reduce emissions from the region, and the setting up of emission caps for Hong Kong and the region beyond 2010. Members considered that it would be more reasonable to recommend voluntary rather than mandatory measures for “High Air Pollution” (HAP) days given our limited ability to make prediction of severe air pollution and the impracticality to give 24-hour notice to the public.

The meeting noted that the Council would shortly meet to discuss the draft report in finalising its recommendations to the Government. Members undertook to provide any further comments they might have in writing by noon of the following day.

Item 3 – Any Other Business

There was no other business.

Item 4 – Date of Next Meeting

The Secretary would confirm the date of the next meeting nearer the time.

Council Secretariat
April 2008