

**Confirmed Minutes of the 119th Meeting of
the Advisory Council on the Environment
held on 11 October 2004 at 2:30 p.m.**

Present:

Prof. LAM Kin-che, J.P. (Chairman)
Prof. Peter HILLS
Prof. HO Kin-chung, B.B.S
Mr. Peter Y. C. LEE
Prof. LUNG Ping-yee, David, S.B.S., J.P.
Dr. NG Cho-nam, B.B.S
Prof. POON Chi-sun
Mr. Otto L. T. POON, B.B.S.
Mr. Markus SHAW
Ms. Iris TAM, J.P.
Prof. WONG Yuk-shan, B.B.S., J.P.
Ms. Jessie WONG (Secretary)

Absent with Apologies:

Mrs. Mei NG, B.B.S
Prof. WONG Tze-wai

In Attendance:

Mr. K. K. KWOK, J.P.	Permanent Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works (Environment)
Mrs. Teresa WONG	Acting Deputy Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works (Environment) ¹
Mr. Roy TANG	Deputy Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works (Environment) ²
Mr. Rob LAW, J.P.	Director of Environmental Protection
Mr. C. C. LAY	Assistant Director (Conservation) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD)
Mr. Jimmy LEUNG	Assistant Director/Technical Services Planning Department (Plan D)
Miss Konnie KONG	Acting Secretariat Press Officer, Environment, Transport and Works Bureau (ETWB)
Ms. Polly LEUNG	Principal Information Officer Environmental Protection Department (EPD)
Miss Petula POON	Chief Executive Officer (E), ETWB
Mr. Eddie CHENG	Executive Officer (E), ETWB

In Attendance for Agenda Item 5 :

Dr. Mike CHIU

Deputy Director of Environmental Protection

In Attendance for Agenda Item 6 :

Dr. P M SO

Senior Conservation Officer (Biodiversity), AFCD

Action

On behalf of the Council, the Chairman congratulated the three Members who were presented the Bronze Bauhinia Star at the 2004 Honours and Awards Ceremony on 9 October 2004.

Agenda Item 1 : Confirmation of Minutes of the 118th Meeting held on 9 August 2004

2. The draft minutes were confirmed without amendment.

Agenda Item 2 : Matters Arising

3. The Chairman reported that there were no matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting.

Agenda Item 3 : Report on the 88th Meeting of the Environmental Impact Assessment Subcommittee

(ACE Paper 31/2004)

4. Deputy Chairman of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Subcommittee, who chaired the 88th meeting of the EIA Subcommittee held on 20 September 2004 because the Chairman of the EIA Subcommittee was out of town, reported the discussion of the meeting.

5. In response to the Chairman's question, Deputy Chairman of the EIA Subcommittee confirmed that the Hongkong Electric Company Ltd. had conducted wind studies in both Lamma Island and Po Toi Island. It was due to considerations mentioned in paragraph 6 of the paper that Po Toi Island was not selected. The Subcommittee was in general satisfied with the site selected. He also informed the meeting that a Member had reservation on the site selected mainly because the Member considered that Po Toi was a more enclosed community, and building a wind turbine there would benefit the community. Another Member pointed out that based on the considerations mentioned in paragraph 6 of the paper, Po Toi Island might have a lower score for item (c) and (d) only. But on the other hand, it had a stronger wind

potential than Lamma Island. In response to the Member's question on whether the difference in wind potential between the two places was significant, Deputy Chairman of the EIA Subcommittee said that both Lamma Island and Po Toi Island had strong wind potential. The Chairman of the EIA Subcommittee supplemented that the comparison of the wind speed recorded in Po Toi Island and Lamma Island was presented in a separate forum, and the difference between the two places was very small. One Member added that the project was a pilot scheme and it was important to connect the wind turbine to the power grids for power generation. At present, there was no power grid and no access road in Po Toi Island. In addition, there was no helicopters with the sufficient loading capacity to transport the wind turbine components and materials there.

6. A Member considered that since the wind turbine would be erected on government land, the profit generated from the project should be shared by the public. In addition, an open and transparent approach should be adopted in allocating land for such projects. It was unfair if only the two power companies could obtain government land for such purpose. Another Member agreed that land allocation had to be dealt with carefully as land was a scarce resource. A proper system should be in place to see whether profit would be generated from the project and if so, how such profit should be returned to the community. In response to the Chairman's enquiry, Deputy Chairman of the EIA Subcommittee confirmed that the land lease issue discussed was not covered by the EIA study and it was not sure at the present stage whether the land would be provided to the project proponent free of charge. The Chairman said that the land lease issue should be considered in a different context, and that the Council should consider the EIA report from environmental point of view only.

7. A Member said that the project was a demonstration project with the objective of gaining local experience in wind turbine technology and renewable energy. It would be important to connect the wind turbine with the power grids which were controlled by the power companies. There could be problems if the generator was not operated by the power companies. He believed that the concern raised by other Members could be looked at in the recent electricity market review. He also pointed out that wind turbines had to be large enough to make the operation viable. Apart from the two power companies, there were very few companies in Hong Kong that could install wind turbines up to that scale.

8. In response to a Member's question, Mr. K K Kwok said that it was Government's initiative to promote renewable energy and persuade the power companies to carry out such kind of pilot scheme. In the present case, the power company took on board the Government's suggestion and the

Government did provide some assistance in implementing the pilot scheme.

9. Having regard to Members' concerns, the Chairman explained that according to the established practice, the Council should consider whether to endorse the EIA report of a project rather than the project itself. The Council's concern on issues that were not within its remit could be referred to relevant bureau and departments for consideration. A Member concurred with the Chairman and quoted the Disney Theme Park and the Cyber Port projects as examples for which public land was allocated without going through the normal process. In those cases, the Council endorsed the EIA reports of the projects on the basis of environmental considerations. Deputy Chairman of the EIA Subcommittee said that the view of the Subcommittee was that the issue was more related to the overall energy strategy which was outside the ambit of the Council. Upon the Chairman's enquiry, Mr. Rob Law confirmed that the land issue and the policy pursued through the project were outside the ambit of the EIA Ordinance. Being the EIA authority, he would only consider the environmental impacts of the project when processing submissions under the Ordinance.

10. The Chairman concluded that the majority of the Members agreed to endorse the report without condition. The concerns expressed by individual Member would be recorded and be conveyed to the relevant authorities for consideration.

Secretariat

Agenda Item 4 : Merger of the Environmental Branch of the Environment, Transport and Works Bureau with the Environmental Protection Department
(ACE Paper 30/2004)

11. Mr. K K Kwok briefed Members on the merger of the Environmental Branch of the Environment, Transport and Works Bureau with EPD. Members were in general supportive of the merger.

12. A Member considered "Environmental Protection Department" an old fashioned name. Noting that the department had taken a more proactive role by trying to change the behavior of the public through education, he considered that the term "environmental protection" was too narrow to fully reflect the department's job. He suggested adopting "Environmental Agency" as the name of the new department. One Member suggested "Environmental Promotion Department" might be appropriate while another Member considered that "Environmental Protection and Sustainable Development Department" a possible option. In response, Mr. K K Kwok said that "agency" was normally used for small departments in the Hong Kong Government. He was open to suggestions but the proposed changes should

not give an impression to the public that the Government was lowering the vigilance attached to environmental protection.

13. In response to a Member's question, Mr. K K Kwok said that at present there was no immediate plan to merge the conservation arm of AFCD with the Bureau. The Bureau would for the time being concentrate on the exercise of merging the Environmental Branch with EPD.

14. In reply to a Member's question on the future statutory authority of the Director of Environmental Protection, Mr. K K Kwok agreed that it would be very important to maintain the current legal status and powers of the Director. Discussions were being held with the Department of Justice on that aspect.

15. The Chairman noted that there would be separate divisions for environmental compliance and prosecution in the new organisation, and the latter would also provide legal advice on appeal cases. He asked the reason for the proposed set-up and whether there was any conflict of interest between law enforcement and handling of appeals. In response, Mr. Rob Law explained that those units had been in place for a long time. The arrangement was in line with the current practice of many departments as well as the Department of Justice's policy for separating the officers gathering evidence and those making prosecution decisions. In addition, the Prosecution Unit would only provide legal advice on appeal cases to the operation arm rather than handling the appeal cases. Noting that at present the environmental appeal boards fell under the purview of the Bureau, the Chairman expressed concern on how the public would perceive the change when appeals against the Director would be handled by appeal boards operated under the Director. In response, Mr. Law said that they could further consider the issue but he understood that the appeal boards were independent and at present the Bureau only provided secretariat support to them.

16. Noting that cross-border work appeared in the duty lists of a number of divisions, a Member asked about the feasibility of putting them under one division. In response, Mr. K K Kwok said that it was necessary to have different units at the working level to deal with the technical aspects of different cross-border issues. A Deputy Director would play a coordinating role in the new department on cross-border environmental issues.

17. Another Member suggested changing the format of the organization chart at Annex C so that the coordination jobs on cross-border issues, education work, etc, would be shown on one side of the chart for easy reading.

18. A Member enquired the reason for putting the Environmental Campaign Committee and the Environment and Conservation Fund under the Water Policy Division while the ACE and matters relating to the Legislative Council were under the Conservation Division. He was of the view that they should be put under one single secretariat. In response, Mr. K K Kwok explained that the arrangement arose mainly from workload considerations. The workload would be too heavy if they were all put under one division.

19. In response to the Chairman's question, Mr. K K Kwok confirmed that policy issues relating to nature conservation including the designation of country parks, special areas, marine parks and marine reserves would still be performed by the new department.

20. A Member commented that the workload of the three Deputy Directors looked unbalanced, with one Deputy Director overlooking five divisions while the other two Deputy Directors each overlooking two divisions. In response, Mr. Rob Law said that the proposed structure reflected the current setup. In general, policy formulation required more time at the senior level than operation work.

21. Another Member said that the merger would serve as a useful precedent for restructuring other bureaux and departments. Noting that the paper only highlighted the benefits of the merger, he asked whether there would be any anticipated concern about conflicts between policy formulation and implementation. In response, Mr. K K Kwok said that they had made reference to other reorganisation exercises conducted in the Government, e.g. the mergers of the Education and Manpower Bureau with the Education Department, the Civil Engineering Department with the Territory Development Department, and the Economic Development and Labour Bureau with the Labour Department. There was no fixed formula for reorganisation and the best organisation structure would depend on the circumstances of each case.

22. In response to a Member's question on the posting arrangement of the Deputy Directors, Mr. K K Kwok said that the new organisation structure provided a blueprint on how the new department would operate. Initially, the two Deputy Director posts on the policy side would be filled by Administrative Officers who would stay in the department for a considerable period of time to maintain continuity. The Deputy Director post on the operation side would be filled by a professional grade officer. As an established practice, the professional grade officer would not be posted out of the department. In the long run, consideration could be made to filling the posts of the Director and the other two Deputy Directors with professional grade officers should there be suitable candidates.

23. In response to another Member's question, Mr. K K Kwok said that a review would be conducted two years after the merger to see whether further streamlining could be achieved. The Chairman hoped that there would be sufficient manpower resources to cope with environmental work in Hong Kong.

24. The Chairman concluded that the Council supported the merger and hoped that the new department would streamline the structure while keeping up with the existing high standard of professionalism.

Agenda Item 5 : Plastic bottle recycling operations in the New Territories
(ACE Paper 32/2004)

25. The Chairman welcomed Dr. Mike Chiu to the meeting and informed the meeting that some Members and he visited three recycling plants in the New Territories on 4 October 2004.

26. In response to the Chairman's question, Dr. Mike Chiu said that the import standards of recycled plastic bottles in the Mainland seemed to have been loosened. According to the information obtained from the Mainland and the trade, the Mainland authorities had set 1 August 2004 as the deadline for registration of recyclers. The trade had therefore tightened up its standards in order to get registered. The implementation date of the new system was tentatively set for 1 November 2004 but it was not yet confirmed. The uncertainty of the implementation date might be the reason for the recent loosening of import standards of recycled plastic bottles.

27. In reply to the Chairman's question on the figures at Annex 2 of the paper, Mr. Jimmy Leung explained that the first two cases handled by Plan D were not actionable because they were outside Development Permission Area. The other 30 non-actionable cases were mostly permitted under the respective town plans or were granted planning permission or were classified as "existing use" before the relevant town plans came into effect. The Chairman asked whether action could be taken against the first two cases that were outside Development Permission Area. In response, Mr. Leung explained that the cases were outside statutory planning control. However, the relevant licensing authorities could exercise control on them if the operation of the workshops required licence from those authorities. A Member asked whether the two cases were within new towns and the Outline Zoning Plans of which were not developed from Development Permission Area and thus no action could be taken. In response, Mr. Leung said that as far as he was aware, the two cases were not within new towns. He would confirm after the meeting.

(Post-meeting notes: Mr. Leung confirmed that the two cases which were outside Development Permission Area were not within new towns.)

28. A Member asked whether the number of recycling plants was growing and if so, whether there was any plan to control them. In response, Dr. Mike Chiu said that there was a substantial increase in recycling workshops in around April and May 2004, probably to take advantage of the registration system in the Mainland. Recently, the growth had slowed down and some establishments had been closed down.

29. A Member queried why the business was conducted in Hong Kong, since other places in the Mainland could reap the profit themselves. He cautioned that there might be hidden social and environmental costs that other places were not willing to pay. Another Member said that the import and export of recycled plastic bottles was a profitable business in Hong Kong because the Mainland required a large quantity of recycled materials. Hong Kong had very good potential for developing the business but proper controls should be imposed.

30. In view of the large number of recycling workshops in the New Territories, including plastic bottles and electronic waste workshops, a Member asked whether the Government would conduct cumulative impact assessment on land contamination of the sites concerned and also on the water quality of streams nearby. In response, Dr. Mike Chiu said that cumulative impact assessment would not be meaningful because pollutions caused by different types of recycling operations were different. Most of the plastic bottle recycling workshops operated in a dry condition. If cleansing was required, the water would be reused and there was very little discharge. On the other hand, electronic waste which was considered hazardous constituted a much more serious problem, and EPD had undertaken a lot of operations in that aspect. There were prosecutions against illegal import and export of electronic waste and a number of persons were convicted and sentenced to imprisonment. He emphasized that the issue of plastic bottle recycling workshops had to be put in perspective. EPD could not deploy the same amount of resources for areas that caused relatively less serious problems.

31. In response to the Chairman's question on the nature of complaints received, Dr. Mike Chiu said that most of them were concerned about the noise emitted from the workshops, and EPD had already issued three Noise Abatement Notices on those workshops. The rest of the complaints were mainly about the odour. In some cases, the odour problem was caused by big farms in the vicinity rather than the recycling workshops.

32. A Member expressed concern about the operation standards of the recycling workshops and asked whether there were any initiatives to raise the standards despite that the workshops did comply with the statutory requirements. He said he had visited similar factories in Japan, Taiwan and Singapore before and their operating conditions were much better. In response, Mrs. Teresa Wong said that the crux of the problem was surplus of agricultural land in the rural New Territories and control over industrial operations. EPD was involved because the raw materials used happened to be recycled materials. The department had checked through all relevant environmental legislation to see if there was any contravention, and prosecution actions would be taken where appropriate. The department had also referred cases to other relevant authorities for checking whether the land and planning controls had been complied with. Whether the raw materials of the workshops should be covered or not was a decision of the operators based on cost consideration. Most of the recycling workshops were in the New Territories because the landowners had no other better development/uses for the land. In that regard, she had started discussion with the Housing, Planning and Lands Bureau to review the policy for zoning large areas in the New Territories as agricultural land. She would report back to the Council when there was progress. Mr. Jimmy Leung pointed out that rural land problems were complicated and could not be resolved simply by rezoning of land. For example, Plan D could rezone land for workshop use but could not control the detailed industrial processes which were subject to scrutiny by the licensing or pollution control authorities. In some cases, the provision of basic infrastructure was needed. Concerted efforts of relevant departments were therefore necessary. Another Member pointed out that the well-managed factories in overseas countries might serve as demonstrations only, and the operating cost might be too high to be viable.

33. A Member pointed out that the crux of the problem was the existence of plastic bottles which constituted a refuse problem in country parks. The Government should take more initiatives to reduce packaging and to promote recycling of packaging materials. Another Member pointed out that it would cause more environmental problems if papers and wood were used in place of plastic.

34. A Member asked whether workshops handling imported recycled materials could operate in the future recovery park. In response, Mrs. Teresa Wong said that the recovery park in Area 38 of Tuen Mun was planned to provide an integrated area for various types of recycling activities. The major purpose was to facilitate recycling of waste produced in Hong Kong, but since operation of recycling workshops required a certain quantity of recycled materials, some waste had to be imported from abroad. EPD had embarked on large-scale programmes, e.g. the Source Separation Scheme, to

make it easier for recyclers to collect local waste so that gradually they would not rely on imported waste.

35. The Chairman thanked Dr. Mike Chiu for briefing Members on the updated position of recycling workshops in the New Territories and arranging the visit. The Council was aware of the actions taken by EPD, Plan D and the Lands Department, and understood that it was a complicated issue. He hoped that the work could continue and he looked forward to further report on the issue, including the discussion on the review of agricultural zonings in the New Territories.

Agenda Item 6 : Findings of the ecological surveys
(ACE Paper 33/2004)

36. The Chairman welcomed Dr. P M So to the meeting. Mr. C C Lay presented the background of the ecological survey programme and Dr. So briefed Members on the findings of the surveys. Members congratulated AFCD for the very successful ecological survey programme.

37. A Member said that with the information available, it was time to further enhance the public awareness of the importance of conserving the biodiversity. He said that at present only a few universities in Hong Kong taught biodiversity, and suggested AFCD fill the gap by working with secondary schools on biodiversity programmes. He also considered that the internal newsletter "Hong Kong Biodiversity" was very useful and interesting, and should be made available to the public. However, to better reflect the content, he suggested adopting "香港生物多樣性" as the Chinese title of the newsletter. Mr. C C Lay thanked Prof. Wong for his suggestions. He said that AFCD would consider joining hands with green groups in further promoting the awareness of biodiversity and involving secondary school teachers in education programmes. He added that upon the opening of the Hong Kong Wetland Park, more nature conservation education programmes would be held.

38. In response to a Member's question, Mr. C C Lay explained that lower plants were not included in the current survey programme. Nonetheless, AFCD was preparing a book entitled "Flora of Hong Kong" which would cover both gymnosperms and angiosperms. Experts from local institutions, including Prof. Hu Shiu-ying, had been invited to participate in the project.

39. In reply to a Member's question on the grid size of the Geographic Information System, Dr. P M So said that they would record the information with resolution of at least 1km grid. If information with higher

resolution was available, they would also enter such information into the system.

40. In reply to a Member's question, Mr. C C Lay said that they had taken into account the findings of the surveys when identifying the ecologically important sites under the Nature Conservation Policy Review.

41. In response to the Chairman's question, Dr. P M So confirmed that detailed and site specific information would not be available from the Internet database. A Member agreed that disclosing detailed information to the public would subject the rare species to disturbance. However, such information would be very useful to experts, academics and EIA practitioners, and hence they should be given access to the information. Another Member found it difficult to accept that the information would only be provided to experts and academics as equal access to information was very important for promoting sustainable development. Sharing the Member's views, Mr. C C Lay pointed out that releasing too much information might overwhelm the general public. Instead, AFCD would try to extract basic information for public viewing through the Internet. Detailed and site-specific information would be more restricted and would only be released to EIA practitioners and ecologists upon request. A Member appreciated the risk of disclosing detailed data but he hoped that the data could be made available to green groups as well. He also asked whether a report could be compiled on the detailed findings. In response, Mr. Lay said that the detailed data would be made available to green groups upon request. AFCD would publish the key findings in articles and papers for AFCD's newsletter "Hong Kong Biodiversity" or scientific journals and it might be difficult to compile a single report on all the data. Upon the Member's request, Mr. Lay undertook to provide him with the report on the study on "Terrestrial Habitat Mapping and Ranking based on Conservation Value" compiled by the Sustainable Development Unit.

(Post-meeting notes: the report was sent to the Member on 13 October 2004.)

42. Noting that although very few rare species were found outside protected areas only, a Member asked whether those species were endangered and whether there was any action plan to protect them. In response, Dr. P M So said that AFCD had recently completed a wetland project in Tai Lam Country Park to protect the rare species Chinese Rasbora. The strategy was to enhance the habitats within the protected areas and translocate the rare species only found outside the protected areas to those enhanced habitats. Mr. C C Lay explained that conducting ecological surveys was the first step to better conserve the biodiversity of Hong Kong. AFCD had recently set up a number of working groups on individual species groups and invited local

experts outside the department to join those groups. The department was conducting an overall review of the conservation status of the species of each plant and animal group, and the working groups would advise on how to formulate better conservation plans. Possible actions included creating suitable habitats within country parks, extending protected areas or enhancing the protection of certain areas. In reply to another Member's question, Mr. Lay said that rare species in protected areas were given adequate protection.

43. The Chairman suggested and Mr. C C Lay agreed that the Hong Kong Wetland Park should include as many rare species in its exhibition materials as possible to demonstrate the rich biodiversity of Hong Kong.

44. In response to a Member's question, Mr. C C Lay explained that the specimens collected were purely for scientific purposes and would be kept in AFCD's reference collection. For rare findings, specimens would be needed to support the findings and to be kept for future reference.

45. A Member asked whether the survey programme had included marine ecology, as a comprehensive marine ecological database would be useful when considering policies such as those related to the Harbour Area Treatment Scheme. He also asked whether AFCD had conducted any surveys on species that were prone to pollution, such as lichen and algae. He understood from the media that the ecological conditions in Victoria Harbour and Kai Tak Nullah were improving, and asked whether there was any official database on those areas. In response, Mr. C C Lay said that the survey programme presented in the meeting covered only terrestrial animals and plants. AFCD had already done a lot of surveys on marine species separately. For instance, there were data on the population and distribution of the Chinese White Dolphins, Finless Porpoises, Horseshoe Crabs and corals in Hong Kong waters. The department would conduct more surveys on other endangered marine species. However, there was no plan to conduct baseline ecological surveys in Victoria Harbour or surveys on pollution-prone species. In reply to another Member's question, Mr. C C Lay said that there were no historical data for assessing whether the marine environment of the Victoria Harbour was improving. However, the water quality had improved a lot in the past decade and it might be a good indication that the marine environment was improving.

46. In reply to a Member's suggestion of relocating funding to other environmental protection initiatives given the improvements achieved in biodiversity, Mr. C C Lay said that the continued efforts of the department were still required for the conservation of the biodiversity of Hong Kong.

47. In response to a Member's question on whether future project proponents would still need to conduct ecological studies as part of the EIA

required for designated projects under the EIA Ordinance, Mr. C C Lay said that their surveys would not preclude the requirement of project proponents to conduct proper ecological surveys for designated projects under the EIA Ordinance but would provide useful baseline information for those studies.

48. The Chairman asked whether the loss of some species such as the barking deer had been confirmed by the surveys. In response, Dr. P M So explained that in the past, they thought that there was only one species of deer in Hong Kong, namely the barking deer. However, after conducting camera trapping and some very limited DNA studies, the deer species found in Hong Kong was later considered to be Indian Muntjac. Recently the department obtained information from a professor of the Australian National University and at present there were three potential species of deer in Hong Kong. The department was trying to verify the information.

49. A Member declared interest as he was the Vice Chairman of Hong Kong Bird Watching Society. He said that breeding bird surveys were very useful for conservation purpose, and asked whether AFCD would support the organisation to conduct such surveys. In response, Dr. P M So said that AFCD had close liaison with the Hong Kong Bird Watching Society and was supporting their on-going winter bird surveys. The society would conduct winter bird surveys and breeding bird surveys once every ten years with the first five years for winter birds and the later five years for breeding birds. It was agreed that subject to the availability of funds, AFCD would also support the breeding bird surveys.

50. A Member pointed out that many fish species such as yellow croaker and white croaker had disappeared from Victory Harbour. For the benefit of fishermen, he suggested AFCD restore the fishery resources of the Harbour. Mr. Lay noted the Member's concern.

51. The Chairman thanked Mr. C C Lay and Dr. P M So for the presentation. He commended AFCD for the very useful surveys which demonstrated the rich biodiversity in Hong Kong and the results of past efforts. He hoped AFCD would continue its efforts and step up programmes to increase public awareness of the need to protect biodiversity.

Agenda Item 7 : Any Other Business

Tentative items for discussion at the next meeting

52. The Chairman informed the meeting that the Harbour Area Treatment Scheme Stage 2 and the Kai Tak Planning Review were tentatively scheduled for discussion at the next meeting.

53. In view of the smog problem in Hong Kong, the Chairman suggested and Mr. K K Kwok agreed to brief Members on the latest position of regional air quality at a future meeting.

ETWB

The possible demolition of Hunghom Peninsula

54. Chairman of the Waste Subcommittee, reported that the developer had declined the Subcommittee's invitation to attend a meeting to discuss the possible demolition of Hunghom Peninsula. Members of the Subcommittee were of the view that a more strongly worded letter should be sent to the developer to highlight the concerns about waste of resources and creation of a huge volume of waste. Members noted the issue and supported the Subcommittee's suggested action. Mr. K K Kwok suggested that in the letter, the developers should be given a chance to explain how they would deal with the waste resulted from redevelopment proposal and what would be their waste management plan. A Member considered that the suggestion should only be pursued when the developer confirmed the demolition because asking them for the waste management plan might give the wrong signal that the demolition proposal was acceptable. He suggested that at present the Subcommittee should only express its objection to demolition of the buildings.

Agenda Item 8 : Date of Next Meeting

55. The next meeting would be held on 8 November 2004.

**ACE Secretariat
October 2004**