

**Confirmed Minutes of the 180<sup>th</sup> Meeting of  
the Advisory Council on the Environment  
held on 19 September 2011 at 2:30 pm**

**Present:**

Prof Paul LAM, JP (Chairman)  
Prof CHAU Kwai-cheong, JP (Deputy Chairman)  
Mr Oscar CHOW  
Prof FUNG Tung  
Ms Betty HO  
Mr Edwin LAU, MH  
Prof Joseph LEE  
Prof LI Xiang-dong  
Ir Dr LO Wai-kwok, BBS, MH, JP  
Miss Yolanda NG  
Dr Alfred TAM  
Mr TSANG Kam-lam, JP  
Dr Carrie WILLIS, SBS, JP  
Mr Simon WONG, JP  
Ms Pansy YAU  
Dr YAU Wing-kwong  
Dr Ray YEP  
Prof Ignatius YU  
Mr Carlson K S CHAN, JP (Secretary)

**Absent with Apologies:**

Ms Teresa AU  
Dr Dorothy CHAN, BBS  
Mr Michael JEBSEN, BBS  
Dr MAN Chi-sum, JP

**In Attendance:**

Ms Anissa WONG, JP	Permanent Secretary for the Environment
Mr C C LAY	Assistant Director (Conservation), Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD)
Mr LAU Sing	Assistant Director/Technical Services, Planning Department
Ms Esther LI	Principal Information Officer, Environmental Protection Department (EPD)
Ms Josephine CHEUNG	Chief Executive Officer (CBD), EPD
Miss Evelyn LEUNG	Chief Executive Officer (CBD) (Designate), EPD
Ms Joanne CHIN	Executive Officer (CBD), EPD
Miss Kim KWAN	Executive Manager (CBD), EPD

### **In Attendance for Agenda Item 3:**

Miss Mary TSANG	Assistant Director (Cross-Boundary and International), EPD
Mr Edmond LAM	Acting Assistant Director (Country and Marine Parks), AFCD
Dr Alain LAM	Acting Assistant Director (Waste Management Policy), EPD
Ms Heidi YUNG	Senior Environmental Protection Officer (Water Policy and Science), EPD
Mr Jack CHAN	Assistant Secretary for the Environment (Energy), ENB
Mr Tony CHEUNG	Senior Environmental Protection Officer (Cross-Boundary and International), EPD
Prof Zeng HUI	Executive Vice-Dean, School of Urban Planning and Design, Peking University (Shenzhen) [Consultant of the Study Team]
Mr GU Zheng-jiang	Director, Design Institute of Land & Urban Planning, Peking University (Shenzhen) [Consultant of the Study Team]
Mr CHEN Wei	Engineer, Shenzhen Urban Transport Planning & Design Centre [Consultant of the Study Team]

### **In Attendance for Agenda Item 4:**

Mr Donald NG	Principal Assistant Secretary (Energy), Environment Bureau (ENB)
Miss Iris YICK	Assistant Secretary (Energy), ENB
Mr WONG Sek-cheung	Chief Engineer/Energy Efficiency A, Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD)
Mr VY Ek-chin	Senior Engineer/Energy Efficiency A3, EMSD

### **In Attendance for Agenda Item 5:**

Dr Alain LAM	Acting Assistant Director (Waste Management Policy), EPD
Miss Libera CHENG	Senior Administrative Officer (Waste Management Policy), EPD

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Action

### **Agenda Item 1 : Confirmation of the draft minutes of the 179<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 13 June 2011**

The draft minutes were confirmed without amendments.

**Agenda Item 2 : Matters arising from the minutes of the 179<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 13 June 2011**

2. There were no matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting.

**Agenda Item 3 : Public Consultation on Initial Proposals for the Regional Cooperation Plan on Building a Quality Living Area**  
*(ACE Paper 11/2011)*

3. Miss Mary Tsang briefed Members on the initial proposals set out in the consultation document on the Regional Cooperation Plan on Building a Quality Living Area (the Plan). The consultation document suggested initial cooperation directions and proposals for Guangdong (GD), Hong Kong and Macao in the five areas of environment and ecology, low-carbon development, culture and social living, spatial planning, and transportation systems.

4. A Member considered it important to adopt a strategic approach in planning and implementing the cooperation proposals which were very important for the development of the Greater Pearl River Delta (GPRD) as a whole. There was room for improvement in the existing channels of communication. He suggested that meetings among the three sides at the non-governmental level should be held more frequently and on a regular basis. Annual fora should be organized for experts to exchange views. A specific non-official advisory body with stakeholders and specialists from the three sides should be set up with a mechanism for regular exchange of views and monitoring of the proposals. Another Member agreed that a mechanism should be put in place to monitor the progress in implementing the proposals.

5. Miss Mary Tsang explained that the compilation of the Plan was being carried out and built on existing cooperation efforts among the three sides, which aimed to transform the GPRD region into an exemplar cluster of green cities for quality living in a holistic manner. Future implementation of proposals of the Plan would be closely monitored under established mechanisms, including the Hong Kong/Guangdong Co-operation Joint Conference (CJC) meeting jointly chaired by the Chief Executive of Hong Kong and GD Mayor, the Hong Kong-Guangdong Joint Working Group on Sustainable Development and Environmental Protection as well as various CJC sub-groups on environment, planning, development and other areas.

6. A Member asked whether the feedback, including those from experts and public, from the other two sides could be made available to Hong Kong for reference. He considered that exchange of views among the three sides was important in developing GPRD region into a Quality Living Area (QLA). Another Member considered it important to convince members of the public on the determination of the governments to implement the proposals. He suggested putting in place a mechanism which enabled exchange of information among the three sides, such as on air quality and water quality, which would be made available in the public domain. A Member suggested promoting public engagement in the community, such as organizing exchange fora as bottom-up commitment would be important for implementation of the proposals. Another Member shared that engagement with stakeholders with platforms for exchange was important in launching the Plan. Public acceptance and commitment to building a green QLA was crucial in taking forward various initiatives.

7. A Member suggested extending the consultation period of three months which was considered relatively short in view of the complexity and wide scope of the proposals. Moreover, the understanding of the general public on some issues might not be deep enough. He considered it important to strengthen education and publicity to let members of the public know that it was a golden opportunity to express views on the joint planning of GPRD region which involved interactive cooperation of the three sides. He disagreed with some views in the community that Hong Kong was on the passive side for being planned. He noted that some planning on the GD side had taken into account the impacts of the projects on Hong Kong. Similarly, the impacts of the third runway proposed in Hong Kong, for example, on the ecological quality and Chinese White Dolphins in the area required interactive planning among the three sides. Miss Mary Tsang agreed to the importance of engaging the public and informed Members that a series of publicity programmes, including a public forum and an expert forum, would be launched during the public consultation period.

8. A Member supported the cooperation of the three sides for planning proposals to improve environmental quality of the area from a broad perspective. However, he was concerned that efforts in improving the environmental quality in the PRD region might be compromised by economic considerations. For example, the standardization of fuel quality to Euro V in the region would impose significant financial implications on GD. Another Member was also concerned about the control of fuel standard in GD, in particular due to the heavy vehicular

flow to and from the GD Province.

9. Miss Mary Tsang explained that it was important to note that the pace and mode of economic development in the three sides was different. GD Province had made strenuous efforts to improve the environmental quality of the area. Under the Cleaner Production Partnership Programme, for example, the GD Province made use of the various projects and experience garnered through the Programme to demonstrate the economic benefits of investing in cleaner production techniques. In respect of fuel standard, efforts were made by the GD side to catch up. Some cities in GD were ahead of other regions to use low emission fuel, i.e. National IV standard.

10. A Member supported the direction of the Plan. He noted that the idea of introducing a QLA in 2009 was for people to travel in the GPRD within a one-hour time zone. The idea was further developed to include the notion of building a green QLA. He noted that the pace of development in GD and Macao was very fast and was concerned about the potential risk for Hong Kong to be marginalized.

11. A Member supported the Plan which was based on the concept of sustainable development. He considered it necessary to have specific targets, which could be different in terms of the three areas and by phases, for achieving a QLA. Given that the geographical area of GD was much larger than that of Hong Kong and Macao, any development in the GD side would have significant impacts on the other two sides. It was important for the three sides to have a consensus that the direction of development in any area would contribute to delivery of the targets. Emphasis on sustainable development should not be shifted to rapid pace of economic growth.

12. A Member supported the Plan. He noted that the pace of development in the three sides was very fast but there was no established mechanism for exchange of information on the impacts of the projects on the other two sides. He suggested establishing a mechanism to conduct strategic environmental assessment to address and minimize the cumulative impacts of the projects on the GPRD region. Another Member agreed to his views. A Member suggested that assessment on carbon footprint and compensation could also be considered in the context of environmental impact assessments.

13. A Member enquired about the approach in handling the financial implications of the cooperation proposals. Miss Mary Tsang explained that the three sides would follow their own mechanisms to secure the necessary financial resources when taking forward projects related to the Plan in future. For Hong Kong, funding approval from the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council would be sought for large-scale projects.

14. A Member supported the direction of the Plan. Nonetheless, she considered that the Plan was not aggressive enough as quite a number of cooperation proposals were based on existing initiatives. The targets, such as those based on the air quality of 2010, were not high enough to achieve a green QLA. Concrete action plans had to be worked out for the proposals to be materialized. She supported the idea of setting up an “Emission Control Area” and considered that it was necessary to work out action plans to implement the idea step by step.

15. Miss Mary Tsang highlighted that the consultation document aimed at collecting views on the broad and long-term regional cooperation directions of the GPRD region as well as the initial proposals on five areas. The three governments would like to foster community consensus through this consultation and would take into account views collected at the next phase of study to finalize the compilation of the Plan. While some proposals were built on existing initiatives, there were a good number of new proposals which were formulated through strenuous efforts among the three sides, such as undertaking a joint study on the arrangements for reducing air pollutant emissions in the PRD region for 2011-2020 and exploring the possibilities on controlling emissions from vessels in the GPRD waters.

16. Prof Zeng Hui said that this was the first regional plan jointly compiled by the three governments. Reference had been made to overseas experience. The GD side was determined to join hands with the other two sides in taking forward the cooperation proposals. Thorough discussions were held among the three sides beforehand. Preliminary ideas which had yet to be developed or to be agreed among the three sides would be further discussed. At this stage, it was important to collect feedback in order to reach consensus on a list of cooperation proposals for implementation in respective areas by phases. Regarding implementation of the proposals, the major difficulty was the fact that the administrative and legal systems as well as the pace of development were different at the three sides. The future implementation of the Plan was therefore

subject to different policies and measures. It should be noted that reaching a consensus among the three sides was by no means easy and it would require concerted efforts to implement each proposal. Difficulties would be anticipated as some issues involved discussion at national and even international level. For example, support and approval by the central government would be required for implementing the proposed "Emission Control Area" and maritime emission from vessels.

17. As regards air quality, a Member asked whether the GD side could achieve the air emission reduction targets under the PRD Air Quality Management Plan (2002-2010) and enquired about the plan for post-2010. He asked about the sulphur content for vessels entering the "Emission Control Area" and the control mechanism on the fuel standard of cross-boundary vehicles. In respect of clean energy, he considered that liquefied natural gas could be considered as clean fuel when compared with coal but disagreed that nuclear energy was classified as a kind of clean energy. To reduce carbon footprint, he considered that cooperation between GD and Hong Kong on the development of airport could be explored.

18. Miss Mary Tsang said that the final assessment of the delivery of the 2010 emission reduction targets was at its final stage, and relevant parties were working on the reduction targets for the next phase which would be based on the former review. As regards the maximum sulphur content of the fuel being used by ocean-going vessels, as prescribed by the relevant international convention, 4.5% sulphur content was being allowed whereas the actual level for most vessels entering Hong Kong was about 3%. The objective of developing an "Emission Control Area" was to further reduce the sulphur content of the fuel used by ocean-going vessels entering the zone. The feasibility of cooperation in respect of airport development could be considered by relevant parties, such as the Airport Authority.

19. A Member considered it important to have a regulatory mechanism to control the overall level of air and water quality in the region as the standards in one side might be different from those in the other sides. Miss Mary Tsang said that there were a number of cooperation proposals to improve air and water quality of the region. To strengthen monitoring, there were proposals in the consultation document to enhance the regional air quality monitoring network and information sharing mechanisms as well as setting up a long-term water quality management framework across different administrative boundaries.

20. In respect of proposals to improve ecological quality of the GPRD region, a Member considered that while key cooperation proposals would focus on specific areas, such as Robin's Nest in Hong Kong and Shenzhen Wutong Shan National Forest Park, emphasis should also be focused on overall urban greening. Another Member suggested placing more emphasis on environmental restoration, such as landfill sites, quarries and degraded forests, in view of limited land resources in the region. Consideration could also be given to off-site compensation in GD for projects in Hong Kong.

21. A Member considered that the concept of ecological corridor had to be defined more clearly. For instance, it was unclear as to whether it referred to the connection of few key ecologically important areas of the three sides or the connection of corridors covering the whole GPRD region. Moreover, technical and expert inputs were necessary for some aspects such as river restoration. Another Member considered that while some proposals could be implemented by individual government under the broad principles, proposals to improve ecological quality, such as ecological corridor to facilitate the movement of birds and Chinese White Dolphins, involved close cooperation across the boundaries.

22. Mr Edmond Lam said that there were existing platforms and ongoing dialogues with the GD side, such as the Guangdong-Hong Kong Afforestation and Conservation Special Panel regarding Robin's Nest and Shenzhen Wutong Shan, the Guangdong-Hong Kong Wetland Conservation Working Group regarding Futian and Mai Po as well as the Hong Kong-Guangdong Marine Resources and Conservation Special Panel regarding Chinese White Dolphin protection. A Pearl River Estuary Chinese White Dolphin Nature Reserve Area, which was next to the Sha Chau and Lung Kwu Chau Marine Park, would be established to provide a more favourable habitat for Chinese White Dolphins. The ecological corridor was not a new concept which was widely adopted in overseas nature reserve management authorities. It aimed at enhancing the ecological value of nature conservation areas across the border by integrating the ecological systems under different jurisdictions. To strengthen and improve the ecosystems across the whole region, discussions and site visits had been taken place between the management authorities of the Shenzhen Wutong Shan National Forest Park and Hong Kong Country Parks as well as Mai Po Inner Deep Bay Ramsar Site in Hong Kong and Futian National Reserve in Shenzhen.



23. Prof Zeng Hui said that the three governments would aim at setting feasible and objective targets at a higher level as far as practicable. In respect of the proposals to improve ecological quality, it would be useful to devise a set of control targets in the context of the respective legislative requirements of the three places. In respect of water quality, GD side was determined to improve the water quality of Pearl River basin and estuary. Measures were being taken but more time would be required to progressively restore the water environment in the region. On air quality, the strengthening of the existing regional air monitoring network would enable more detailed monitoring of the data. The increasing awareness of enterprises on emission reduction would have positive impacts. Exchange of information would be strengthened, in particular on large-scale projects to be constructed, with a view to assessing the implications on the other two sides.

24. On food safety, a Member was concerned about the use of used cooking oil in the Mainland for food processing. Another Member noted that the Mainland was tightening up the requirements on food safety and the use of used cooking oil was not as common as the media had publicized. Moreover, Hong Kong and the Mainland were actively developing cooperation opportunities in testing and certification services in food industry.

25. A Member anticipated that there would be more difficulties in implementing cooperation areas related to culture and social living which involved a wide spectrum of areas such as policies on population control and immigration. He was concerned that the inclusion of proposals under this broad topic might affect the pace of implementing other proposals. Mr Gu Zeng-jiang explained that there was existing cross-border cooperation mechanism on culture and social living. This area was important and inter-related to the development of a QLA.

26. The Chairman summarized Members' views as follows –

- (a) the Council welcomed the Plan which aimed to transform the GPRD region into a low carbon, high technology and low-pollution city cluster of quality living. The initial proposals in the Plan embraced the concept of sustainable development and should strike a balance between economic/social development and the environment;
- (b) the Council was keen to see cooperation efforts of the three sides in

establishing a low carbon and circular economy and enhancing the environmental and ecological quality which would help enhance the competitiveness and attractiveness of the GPRD region;

- (c) the Council was supportive of the initial proposals set out in the consultation document of the Plan and considered that a strategic and holistic approach should be adopted in the planning and implementation of the proposals;
- (d) the Council considered it useful to set appropriate targets on the cooperation proposals where possible, and put in place a comprehensive monitoring mechanism on the progress of implementation to ensure that the proposals could achieve the aim of building a green QLA;
- (e) the Council considered that exchange of information and ideas among the three sides as well as education, publicity and public engagement in the community were crucial to solicit public acceptance for taking forward the proposals;
- (f) the Council suggested adopting a comprehensive approach in strengthening the ecosystems with a view to protecting natural resources in the whole region. More emphasis should be placed on environmental restoration in view of limited land resources in the region; and
- (g) the Council suggested establishing a mechanism to conduct strategic environmental assessment to address and minimize the cumulative impacts of projects on the GPRD region. Assessment on carbon footprint should be included.

**Agenda Item 4: Public Consultation on the Restriction of Sale of Energy-inefficient Incandescent Light Bulbs**  
*(ACE Paper 12/2011)*

27. Mr Donald Ng briefed Members on the background of the proposal to restrict the sale of energy-inefficient incandescent light bulbs (ILB). Mr Wong Sek-cheung briefed Members on the details of the proposal.

28. A Member supported the proposed mandatory scheme in view of the significant environmental benefits. He would like the scheme be implemented as soon as possible instead of by phases. Mr Donald Ng explained that the mandatory scheme was proposed to be implemented by phases having regard to the availability of substitutes. The initial phase of the scheme was proposed to cover 25 watt or above non-reflector type ILB in view of the availability of sufficient supply of substitutes in the market. A grace period of 12 months was proposed to allow sufficient time for the trade and the public to prepare for the change. Consultation with the trade was being conducted on the length of the grace period.

29. The Member enquired about the possibility of Government procuring ILB stocks in the market so that the stocks would not be sold to the public when a cut-off date was imposed. Mr Donald Ng said that setting aside the financial implications, it might not be desirable to dispose of a large number of unused ILB.

30. A Member suggested adopting “minimum energy performance standard” (MEPS) instead of the classification of ILB and non-ILB as the yardstick for phasing out energy-inefficient light bulbs. Bulbs which could not meet the MEPS, regardless of classification, should be restricted from import and supply.

31. A Member enquired about the restriction of reflector type ILB, particularly ELV Tungsten Halogen Reflector Lamp, which could be substituted by Light Emitting Diode (LED). Mr Donald Ng explained that a number of factors had to be taken into account in considering the question of availability of viable replacement options for ILB. These included service life, colour rendering, colour temperature, lamp cap, efficacy, etc.. In view of limited substitutes in the market, reflector type ILB was not covered under the initial phase of the proposed scheme. Coverage of the scheme would be reviewed with reference to the results of the initial phase, availability of substitutes and the latest development of lighting technology.

32. Mr Wong Sek-cheung added that consideration had to be given to other technical factors, such as beam angles and center beam intensity, in assessing viable substitutes for reflector type ILB. LED lamp could be a potential energy-efficient substitute for reflector lamp. However, LED was a new lighting technology which was more costly and not yet mature. LED would provide more economic incentives for commercial sector but not domestic sector

as the increased cost had to be offset by electricity saved after long hours of operation. The Government would continue to help promote the application of LED lighting technology and a Voluntary Energy Efficiency Labelling Scheme for LED lighting products was launched in June 2011.

33. A Member welcomed the proposal. He asked whether consideration would be given to exempting ILB which served dual purposes of lighting and heating, like those installed in bathrooms or changing rooms. Another Member asked whether exemption would be given to ILB which served the purpose of warming for infants and patients. A Member asked whether infra-red radiation was more commonly used for heat lamps or warmers in Hong Kong. Mr Donald Ng explained that 90% of the electricity consumed in ILB would be lost as heat whereas only 10% was used for lighting. The purpose of the proposal was to encourage the use of energy-efficient lighting products. More energy-efficient electrical devices for heating purpose would be recommended to serve the purpose of heating. Mr Wong Sek-cheung added that light bulb should be used for general lighting purpose and other means of heating devices, such as infra-red radiator etc., would be more suitable and common choices than ILB for heating purpose.

34. A Member enquired about the cost difference between ILB and non-ILB. Mr Donald Ng said that the average market price of ILB was about \$7 per unit while that of a compact fluorescent lamp (CFL), an energy-efficient alternative, was about \$20 per unit. Although the cost of CFL was nearly three times than that of ILB, CFL saved about 75% of electricity compared to ILB and on average lasted up to six to eight times longer or more. According to an estimation by EMSD, a household of four people could save up to \$440 in electricity bill each year by replacing ILB with energy-efficient CFL.

35. A Member enquired about the assumptions of the estimation of \$440 saved per household, which seemed to be on the conservative side. Mr Wong Sek-cheung explained that the ILBs installed in a household of four people was assumed to be have a total power of 380 watt and the average utilization was 4.2 hours per day. The utilization of 1,533 hours per year for a household was based on data collected from a survey on the electricity consumption pattern of local domestic households. As CFL could save about 75% of electricity compared to ILB, the energy saved would be around 437 kWh, amounting to savings of about \$440 for tariff of \$1/kWh.

36. Two Members suggested that more data should be provided to the public by highlighting the financial benefits of replacing ILB with more energy-efficient lighting products.

37. A Member was concerned about the heavy metal contained in CFL. He suggested more efforts be made in educating the public on proper disposal of used CFL and promoting the CFL recycling mechanism, such as increasing the number of collection points. Another Member shared the concern and suggested that a comprehensive policy should be established to foster the CFL recycling industry and explore more environment-friendly and affordable alternatives for lighting.

38. Mr Donald Ng explained that the Government was fully aware of the need for proper collection and disposal of used CFL. A Florescent Lamp Recycling Programme for households had been launched since March 2008 to collect and treat mercury-containing lamps in line with international practices. The programme had been expanding with the number of public collection points increased from 53 to 132. A total of 910 housing estates participated in the programme currently. The importance of proper handling of used CFL had been promulgated to the public through various channels. Moreover, the Government, through a contractor, provided florescent lamps recycling service to the commercial sector. All used CFL collected would be treated in the Chemical Waste Treatment Centre at Tsing Yi, the capacity of which would be expanded to cope with the increasing demand.

39. A Member considered that public awareness of proper disposal of used CFL was not high. He suggested requiring suppliers to include a small information leaflet in the packaging of CFL to remind the public. Another Member suggested motivating people to dispose of used CFL properly by requiring suppliers to offer discounts for return of used CFL.

40. A Member noted that a study conducted by the US Environmental Protection Agency and US Department of Energy revealed that over half of the mercury in US was emitted from coal-fired electrical power. As CFL used less electricity than incandescent lights, the use of CFL reduced the amount of mercury into the environment due to power generation. Although CFL might release mercury when being disposed of at landfills, the overall contribution of CFL per unit for mercury emission was estimated to be 71% less than that of ILB per unit. To minimize release of mercury, the study recommended that CFL should be used

instead of ILB and CFL should be recycled where possible.

41. The Chairman summarized Members' views as follows –

- (a) the Council welcomed the proposal set out in the consultation paper to restrict the sale of energy-inefficient ILB through legislation in view of the significant environmental benefits of reducing energy consumption and carbon dioxide emissions as lighting on average accounted for about 15% of total electricity consumption in Hong Kong in the past decade;
- (b) the Council suggested enforcing the legislation as soon as practicable to achieve the environmental benefits at an earlier stage and adopting MEPS, instead of classification of ILB and non-ILB, as the yardstick for phasing out energy-inefficient light bulbs;
- (c) the Council considered that the Fluorescent Lamp Recycling Programme should be further strengthened to put in place an effective system for collecting and recycling used CFL so as to prevent release of mercury from used CFL. Greater effort should also be made on raising public awareness on the importance of proper disposal of used CFL; and
- (d) the Council considered that an effective means of publicity would be to highlight the savings of electricity tariff by replacing ILB with energy-efficient lighting products.

**Agenda Item 5: Report of the Waste Management Subcommittee**  
***(ACE Paper 13/2011)***

42. The Chairman informed Members that the purpose of the paper was to report on the recommendations of the Waste Management Subcommittee (WMSC) on the proposal on “Extension of Environmental Levy Scheme on Plastic Shopping Bags (PSBs)” which was deliberated at the meeting of WMSC in June 2011.

43. The Chairman of the WMSC reported on the recommendations of the Subcommittee on the proposal.

44. In response to a Member's enquiry, the Chairman said that the levy collected under the current Levy Scheme was credited to the general revenue account of the Government.

45. Two Members enquired about the time frame for implementing the extended scheme. Dr Alain Lam explained that EPD was analyzing the responses collected during the consultation period with a view to drawing up detailed proposals in extending the Producer Responsibility Scheme on PSBs. EPD aimed to report the findings of the public consultation to the Legislative Council (LegCo) Panel on Environmental Affairs within 2011, and to introduce legislative amendments to the LegCo in 2012/13.

46. A Member noted that while the number of PSBs disposed of at the landfills was on the decline, the number of disposed non-woven bags, usually referred as "environmental bags", had increased. He enquired whether the Administration had the data on the use of plastic raw materials for producing environmental bags. He considered that the information would be useful to convince the public to use less environmental bags which were made with more plastic materials. Miss Libera Cheng said that the Administration was aware of the report made by a plastic bag manufacturer trade association alleging that more plastic raw materials were used. As plastic raw materials were used for the production of various products not limited to PSBs and non-woven bags, the Administration would resort to the data gathered from the landfill survey to ascertain the usage of PSBs and non-woven bags. She said that the landfill survey revealed that while there was an increase in the number of non-woven bags being disposed of, the increase was reasonable. The Administration would further strengthen public education with a view to instill behavioral change, including using less PSBs and non-woven bags, and to reuse them properly.

47. The Chairman of the WMSC agreed that it was necessary to discourage the use of non-woven bags which used more plastic materials than conventional PSBs. He opined that environmental bags should be made of environment-friendly materials instead of plastic and be reused as far as possible.

48. The Chairman summarized Members' views as follows –

- (a) the Council supported the recommendations of the WMSC regarding the proposed extension of the Levy Scheme to cover all retail outlets in view of the success of the first phase and anticipated environmental benefits; and
- (b) the Council considered it important to discourage the production and use of environmental bags which used plastic raw materials. Government should publicize relevant information to convince the public and raise their awareness on the environmental implications of using such kind of environmental bags.

**Agenda Item 6: Any other business**

Tentative items for discussion at the next meeting

49. The agenda was being compiled. Members would be informed in due course.

**Agenda Item 7 : Date of next meeting**

50. The Chairman informed Members that the next meeting was scheduled for 17 October 2011.

ACE secretariat  
October 2011