

**Confirmed Minutes of the 227th Meeting
of the Advisory Council on the Environment (ACE)
held on 6 November 2017 at 2:30 pm**

Present:

Mr Stanley WONG, SBS, JP (Chairman)
Prof Nora TAM, BBS, JP (Deputy Chairman)
Dr Billy HAU
Dr HUNG Wing-tat, MH
Prof LAU Chi-pang, JP
Ms Julia LAU
Dr Michael LAU
Mr Anthony LOCK
Ir MA Lee-tak, SBS
Prof John NG
Ir Conrad WONG, BBS, JP
Mr Simon WONG, JP
Prof WONG Sze-chun, BBS, JP
Mrs Alice CHEUNG, JP (Secretary)

Absent with Apologies:

Ir Cary CHAN, JP
Prof Albert LEE
Mr Andrew LEE
Prof Kenneth LEUNG
Ir Prof Irene LO, JP
Ir Michelle TANG
Dr Eric TSANG
Prof Jonathan WONG, MH, JP
Mr Luther WONG, JP

In Attendance:

Mr Donald TONG, JP	Permanent Secretary for the Environment/Director of Environmental Protection
Ms Lily YAM	Assistant Director of Planning/Technical Services, Planning Department (PlanD)
Mr Simon CHAN	Assistant Director (Conservation), Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD)
Miss Saphine YIP	Senior Information Officer (1), Environmental Protection Department (EPD)

Ms Becky LAM	Chief Executive Officer (CBD), EPD
Miss Dora CHU	Executive Officer (CBD) 1, EPD
Miss Apple LEUNG	Executive Officer (CBD) 2, EPD

In Attendance for Item 1:

Mr K S WONG, GBS, JP	Secretary for the Environment (SEN)
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In Attendance for Item 4:

Mr Donald NG	Deputy Director of Environmental Protection (4), EPD
Mrs Alison LAU	Assistant Director (Special Duties), EPD

Action

The Chairman welcomed Members to the meeting and informed that apologies of absence had been received from Ir Cary Chan, Prof Albert Lee, Mr Andrew Lee, Prof Kenneth Leung, Ir Prof Irene Lo, Ir Michelle Tang, Dr Eric Tsang, Prof Jonathan Wong and Mr Luther Wong.

Item 1 : Briefing by the Secretary for the Environment on 2017 Policy Address - Policy Initiatives of Environment Bureau: Environmental Protection (ACE Paper 21/2017)

Presentation cum Question-and-Answer Session (Open session)

2. The Chairman welcomed Mr K S Wong, Secretary for the Environment (SEN) to the meeting.

3. With the aid of a powerpoint, Mr K S Wong highlighted the key policy initiatives in relation to the environmental issues in the 2017 Policy Address. He assured Members that the Environment Bureau (ENB) would continue with the actions required under the various blueprints for environmental protection and pursue in the areas of air quality, water quality, energy conservation, waste reduction and recycling, nature conservation, countryside revitalization and combating climate change.

4. The Chairman referred to the written submissions made by two Members who were unable to attend the meeting. One of the Members suggested the Government develop renewable energy (RE) with extra resources on advanced research in scientific technologies. Another Member remarked on the importance for the Government to promote and enhance the environmental performance of both

existing and new buildings with a view to incorporating BEAM Plus principles in all Government buildings as a good start.

5. A Member expressed his appreciation to the various environmental initiatives of the 2017 Policy Address, in particular those actions in combating climate change, improving air and water quality and enhancing waste management. He suggested the Government conduct a review of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process to further facilitate the conservation efforts of ecological sensitive areas covered by EIA projects. Mr K S Wong remarked that under the current EIA mechanism, project proponents would be required to conduct ecological assessment and provide mitigation measures to address adverse environmental impacts, if any.

Setting up of the Countryside Conservation Office

6. On a Member's suggestion to develop a long term strategy for nature conservation, Mr K S Wong said that the Government would continue to implement the Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (BSAP), which was Hong Kong's long-term blueprint for nature conservation and sustainable development in the next five years. He added that an Inter-departmental Working Group had been set up to co-ordinate the actions of various bureau and departments (B/Ds) in promoting biodiversity and fostering a sense of nature appreciation. As one of the new environmental initiatives under the Chief Executive's 2017 Policy Address, a Countryside Conservation Office (CCO) would be established to co-ordinate conservation projects that would promote sustainable development of remote countryside.

7. In addition to the HK\$ 1 billion from the Government, a Member suggested the Government explore alternative sources of funding such as private donations to carry out projects to promote conservation and long-term sustainability of remote countryside areas.

8. Mr K S Wong explained that the fund earmarked for the CCO would not be confined to the revitalisation work for the two pilot projects at Lai Chi Wo and Sha Lo Tung. He said that an advisory committee involving non-officials would be set up to advise on the funding applications received by the CCO and monitor the implementation progress of the funded projects for the sustainable development of remote countryside areas. Mr Wong further said that the Government would continue to encourage the private sector to contribute and support conservation

projects that would foster collaborations with the rural community and non-government organisations (NGOs), and would at the same time create new opportunities for economic activities in the remote countryside areas.

9. In view that some fishponds and wetlands with ecological value in the Deep Bay area were under multiple private ownerships, a Member suggested the Government reserve funds under the CCO to devise a coherent countryside conservation policy and generate synergy in the planning and management of these land lots to enhance the ecological connectivity. Mr K S Wong said that the priority task of the CCO would be to implement a series of programmes to enhance the countryside revitalisation at Lai Chi Wo and Sha Lo Tung. The Office would review effectiveness of these projects from time to time and progressively extend its efforts to other remote countryside areas having regard to experiences gained in the two pilot projects.

10. A Member appreciated the Government's efforts in co-ordinating the actions among various B/Ds to enhance conservation policies and initiatives. Noting that ENB had earlier sought views from stakeholders on the environmental protection initiatives in relation to the establishment of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Bay Area, the Member opined that it was important for Hong Kong to maintain close collaboration with the Government of Guangdong on nature conservation and preservation of wetland and marine resources.

Energy Saving Measures

11. Noting that the Global Liveability Ranking for Hong Kong published by the Economist Intelligence Unit had recorded a decline in recent years, a Member expressed support for the environmental initiatives under the 2017 Policy Address that would complement the development of Hong Kong into a liveable city. The Member echoed comments made by another Member on the importance for the Government to promote and enhance the environmental performance of both existing and new buildings. The Member remarked that as the number of ageing buildings in Hong Kong was increasing, proper maintenance and management of these buildings would improve their environmental performance which would be conducive to developing Hong Kong into an environmentally friendly and liveable city.

12. Mr K S Wong said that the maintenance and management of the existing buildings would require collaboration amongst other B/Ds such as the

Development Bureau (DevB). ENB had formulated various initiatives to promote energy saving and concept of green buildings. Under the post-2018 Scheme of Control Agreements (SCAs), existing incentives in relation to promotion of energy efficiency and conservation would be expanded while new elements would be introduced. The Government was discussing with the two power companies on the implementation details for the post-2018 SCAs to be implemented in October 2018 for China Light and Power Hong Kong Limited and in January 2019 for Hong Kong Electric Company Limited. Besides, the Government would propose partnerships with major private companies in the building sector under the voluntary 4Ts framework, namely *targets, timeline, transparency* and *together*, to promote energy saving in private buildings.

Waste to Energy Strategy

13. A Member expressed support for the setting up of a Food Waste Recycling Group, and opined that it was important to promote waste reduction at source, which should include promoting the concept and attitude of food waste reduction in the community, as well as encouraging food retailers and vendors to reduce food disposal.

14. In response, Mr K S Wong said that Phase One of the Organic Resources Recovery Centre (ORRC) was scheduled for commissioning in early 2018; while Phase Two of ORRC was going through the necessary tendering procedures. Apart from these, the Government was making preparation for the engineering feasibility study and EIA for Phase Three of ORRC in 2018. The new Food Waste Recycling Group would strengthen the promotion of food waste reduction and recycling through various publicity and educational programmes, such as the Food Wise Hong Kong Campaign, with a view to enhancing the community's "Food Wise" awareness focusing on waste reduction, source separation and recycling.

15. On a Member's enquiry of the progress of the implementation of the Producer Responsibility Scheme (PRS) on glass beverage containers, Mr K S Wong said that three qualified contractors would be engaged to provide regional glass container collection and treatment services covering Hong Kong Island (including Islands District), Kowloon and the New Territories respectively. Upon completion of a six-month preparatory period by 2018, the contractors would establish within their responsible catchment region a network of collection points to facilitate glass container collection especially from the commercial and

industrial (C&I) sectors. The implementation of the mandatory PRS on glass beverage containers would encourage public participation in the recycling of glass containers and was an important milestone in municipal solid waste (MSW) management policy in Hong Kong.

16. On a Member's enquiry on the development of waste-to-energy initiatives, Mr K S Wong said that the Government had adopted a multi-pronged approach to tackle Hong Kong's food waste problem, including a sludge treatment facility at the T•PARK and Phases One and Two of ORRC to turn food waste into energy. In parallel, the Integrated Waste Management Facilities (IWMF) Phase One at Shek Kwu Chau would recover energy from MSW at a maximum capacity of 3,000 tonnes per day. Besides, the Government was in close collaboration with Towngas and CLP Power in utilizing landfill gas from the three existing strategic landfills for energy production. The Government would also be conducting a pilot trial on making use of the sewage sludge anaerobic digestion system at an existing sewage treatments works (STW) to help enhance Hong Kong's overall food waste treatment capacity.

17. The Member further remarked that enforcement against illegal waste disposal was equally important to ensure the smooth implementation of a policy. In view of the upcoming implementation of MSW charging, he suggested the Government review the effectiveness of the relevant enforcement measures under various policy initiatives of the ENB.

Use of Green Technologies

18. Referring to the use of electric vessels as means of public transport in some Northern European countries to reduce pollution, a Member suggested the Government explore using similar ferries in Hong Kong. Mr K S Wong said that legislation had been introduced to cap the sulphur content of locally-supplied marine light diesel and mandate ocean-going vessels to switch to low sulphur fuel while at berth; and a funding scheme had been put in place to encourage public transport operators to make use of similar green technologies. The Government was also collaborating with the Mainland Government to jointly promote the establishment of a Domestic Emission Control Area (DECA) in the Pearl River Delta waters.

19. A Member suggested the Government devise long-term measures to keep abreast with global standard and development on environmental protection. He

noted that some advanced countries would prohibit the use of microbeads, reduce the use of disposable plastic products and ban the use of gas- and diesel-powered vehicles, by means of regulations. Mr K S Wong said that while the Government had been progressing in the development of waste reduction and recycling, there was a need to take into account local circumstances on waste management. Nonetheless, he assured Members that the Government would continue to implement waste management initiatives, in addition to keeping abreast of the latest overseas practices such as the use of electric vehicles.

Public Education and Publicity

20. A Member opined that the Government should accord priority to organizing publicity and educational programmes in inducing the necessary behavioral changes of the community. Apart from various publicity campaigns on waste management, the Member suggested the Government strengthen educational programme to raise the public awareness including Government officials on the importance of environmental protection to ensure the smooth operation of various new environmental initiatives.

21. Mr K S Wong agreed that public education and publicity were important. Taking MSW charging as an example, the Government would take the opportunity to step up public education and launch publicity campaigns to raise public awareness of the importance of waste reduction and recycling.

Conclusion

22. The Chairman thanked Mr K S Wong for his detailed explanations to address the concerns and questions raised by Members in the meeting.

[Mr K S Wong left the meeting at this juncture.]

Internal Discussion Session (Closed-door session)

23. A Member enquired if Members would be arranged to exchange views with the relevant Government officials on major environmental protection initiatives in relation to the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Bay Area Development Plan. Mrs Alice Cheung said that she would consult the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau (CMAB) that was responsible for coordinating the Government's work on the Bay Area Development Plan and would report back to

Members when more information was available.

24. Mr Donald Tong said that Members' views were welcome on environmental protection, conservation and green initiatives in relation to the development plan for the Bay Area. He added that details of the Bay Area Development Plan would be made available to Members in due course.

Item 2 : Confirmation of the draft minutes of the 226th meeting held on 9 October 2017 (Closed-door session)

25. The draft minutes were confirmed without amendment.

Item 3 : Matters arising (Closed-door session)

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

Item 4 : Implementation of Municipal Solid Waste Charging (ACE Papers 22/2017 and 23/2017)

27. The Chairman informed Members that the paper sought Members' views on the proposed modifications to the implementation arrangements for MSW charging which was discussed at the ACE meeting held on 3 April 2017. The discussion would be divided into the Presentation cum Question-and-Answer Session and the Internal Discussion Session.

28. The Chairman invited declaration of interest from Members. A Member declared that she was a member of the Council for Sustainable Development (SDC) and the Convenor of the Support Group on MSW charging that conducted the public engagement. The meeting agreed that the Member could stay on and continue participating in the discussion.

[The subject team joined the meeting at this juncture.]

Presentation cum Question-and-Answer Session (Open session)

29. Mr Donald Ng introduced the background of the MSW charging with reference to the public engagement exercise completed in 2014. ACE had been consulted on the implementation framework proposed by the SDC in May 2015 as well as the proposed implementation arrangements for MSW charging in April

2017. Since the announcement of the implementation plan, the Government conducted more than 60 engagement and consultation sessions and solicited the views of the community and different stakeholders. The proposals were modified having regard to the views received, and EPD would like to brief Members on the changes to the implementation arrangements.

30. With the aid of a powerpoint presentation, Mrs Alison Lau briefed Members on the proposed modifications to the implementation arrangements of MSW charging and the implementation timetable.

31. On behalf of a Member who was unable to attend the meeting, the Chairman enquired about the reason for not arranging the item for discussion at the Waste Management Subcommittee (WMSC). Mr Donald Ng explained that the issues involving MSW charging covered a wide range of issues and the scheme would be implemented across different sectors in the community. Also, since ACE had been consulted throughout the engagement process and modifications were made in response to the comments made by Members earlier, it was considered more appropriate to raise this direct with ACE on the proposed changes to the implementation arrangements.

Recycling Support

32. As regards a Member's enquiry about measures for handling domestic food waste, Mr Donald Ng explained that the Government had been in parallel developing infrastructure to support the treatment of food waste, such as Phases One and Two of the ORRC, which would altogether provide a daily treatment capacity of 500 tonnes of food waste generated by the C&I sectors. When more phases of the ORRC were commissioned in future, there would be additional capacity for treating food waste generated by households.

33. Members in general commended the Government for carefully working out the implementation arrangements having regard to the views received. Given that recyclables would not be subject to MSW charges, a Member was concerned that the recycling facilities in public places might be abused by the public for disposal of non-recyclables. Mrs Alison Lau responded that the Steering Group on the Modification of Recycling and Refuse Collection Facilities in Public Places (the Steering Group) chaired by the SEN had been reviewing the distribution and design of litter containers (LCs) and recycling bins (RBs) in public places to prepare for the implementation of MSW charging. The Steering Group had

completed the Stage One consultancy study to review the existing designs and distribution of such LCs and RBs. It would soon commission the Stage Two consultants to recommend new designs for LCs and RBs in public places. New designs for RB such as those with opening matching the shape of relevant recyclables would be explored. Besides, an outreaching team would be set up in the EPD to provide on-site guidance and assistance to residents in implementing MSW charging and in practising clean recycling and proper waste source separation.

34. In response to a Member's concern that the proposed change to the openings of the RBs in matching the shape of the recyclables might discourage the public who needed to dispose of recyclables in bulk volumes, Mrs Alison Lau explained that the proposed change targeted at RBs in unmanned public places to prevent their misuse for disposal of litter to evade MSW charges. For residents disposing large quantities of recyclables, there were other suitable reception points such as the community green stations and the community recycling centres.

35. In response to a Member's suggestion on providing greater incentives to the C&I sectors to practice recycling upon the implementation of MSW charging, Mr Donald Ng explained that food waste and other recyclables were not required to be wrapped in pre-paid designated garbage bags under the MSW charging scheme; hence the C&I sector would have stronger incentives to separate recyclables from MSW to reduce MSW payable.

36. In response to a Member's enquiry on the implementation schedule of setting up the outreaching teams to enhance residents' understanding of clean recycling and waste source separation, Mr Donald Ng advised that a pilot scheme would be implemented in selected districts in the first half of 2018. The experience gained from the pilot scheme would help EPD better prepare for the full launching of the outreaching teams across the territory. The Member also expressed his concern about insufficient financial incentives or motivation for C&I sectors to reduce food waste at source in case the cost for the associated logistics arrangements was more than MSW charging. Mr Ng advised that C&I establishments would save MSW payable if they made suitable arrangements for transporting their food waste to the Phase One of ORRC.

Detailed arrangements of MSW Charging

37. In response to a Member's written suggestion on phased implementation of MSW charging to enhance experience learning, Mr Donald Ng said that SDC had recommended that the scheme should be implemented in all sectors based on the "polluter-pays" principle in one go to ensure fairness. Noting that it would take time to raise public awareness and induce the necessary behavioral changes, a total funding of \$33 million had been approved by the Environmental Conservation Fund (ECF) in the past two years for conducting community involvement projects in different types of premises. Furthermore, a preparatory period of 12 to 18 months would be put in place after the passage of the legislation during which publicity and education efforts would be intensified. There would also be a six-month phasing-in period after the commencement of MSW charging when warnings would primarily be issued for non-compliant cases though enforcement actions would also be taken against repeated and blatant offenders if the situation so warranted.

38. While expressing support for the scheme, a Member was concerned that some people might flush food residues down the drainage system in order to avoid MSW charges. Mr Donald Ng said that the motivation for such move might not be strong having regard to the low costs of designated garbage bags vis-à-vis the higher costs incurred for clearing drains that might suffer from clogage.

39. For buildings that currently distributed garbage bags to their occupants, a Member anticipated that some occupants might ask for a cut in the building management fee as the occupants themselves would incur additional expenses in purchasing designated garbage bags. Mr Donald Ng said that currently, the service fee charged by Private Waste Collectors pertained only to waste collection service they provided for their clients. Upon implementation of MSW charging, individual households would purchase their own designated garbage bags for MSW disposal, and this should not affect the waste collection fee being charged by PWCs.

40. A Member suggested that arrangements should be made to liaise with the Housing Department to review the design or operation of the existing temporary collection points for construction waste so as to prevent their misuse upon the implementation of the MSW charging.

41. A Member suggested the Government devise corresponding measures such as improving the lighting condition at refuse collection points (RCPs) through the installation of motion detectors and introducing reward and recognition systems under the scheme. Mr Donald Ng said that the review being conducted by the Steering Group would examine the design of RCPs.

Enforcement against non-compliance

42. In response to a Member's enquiry on measures to combat illegal waste disposal especially in rural areas and old districts, Mr Donald Ng advised that trial runs of MSW charging in different types of settings, including rural areas and single block buildings, had been conducted under the ECF community involvement projects. While the projects were trial in nature without involving actual payments, there was still a marked drop in MSW disposal in terms of the number and size of designated garbage bags used. Drawing from the experience of Taipei City and Seoul, the Government would continue to step up publicity and education especially during the preparatory period. A Waste Reduction and Recycling promotional campaign under the theme of "Dump Less, Save More" would be launched to enhance public awareness and understanding of the implementation arrangements of MSW charging.

43. Mr Donald Ng further said that the frontline staff of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) would not accept waste not properly wrapped in designated garbage bags at RCVs and RCPs. For non-compliant waste found in waste reception areas on floor levels of the buildings, EPD would draw up a list of "black-spots" on the basis of complaints and reports from property management companies and the public to plan and conduct surprise inspections and enforcement actions.

Design and production of designated garbage bags

44. To prevent the use of counterfeit designated garbage bags, a Member suggested using radio frequency identification (RFID) technology, especially for designated garbage bags with higher volumes and charges. The Government could further consider requiring the scanning of the RFID tag on the designated garbage bags for accessing RCPs and / or opening waste bins. This could effectively prevent disposal of non-compliant waste as only designated bags with valid RFID tag could go through the scanning process and allow access to RCPs / waste bins.

45. Making reference to the experience of Taipei City and Seoul, Mr Donald Ng advised that all designated garbage bags would bear an anti-counterfeit label to deter forgery. To strike a balance between the production cost of the designated garbage bags and the sophistication of the anti-counterfeit label, EPD would keep in view the development of latest technology and consider its possible application for the designated bags. For the production and sale of forgery bags, Mr Ng added that the Trade Descriptions Ordinance (Cap 362) already stipulated the penalty for such offences.

46. In response to a Member's question on the feasibility of using recycled plastic bottles for the production of designated garbage bags, Mr Donald Ng explained that plastic bottles and garbage bags were made of different types of plastics. The designated garbage bags would be oxo-biodegradable and consist of at least 50% recycled content to reduce their burden on landfills.

47. Regarding a Member's question on the physical performance of designated garbage bags, especially those with volumes as high as 100 litres, Mr Donald Ng said that the designated garbage bags had undergone performance tests to ensure that they would not be easily broken under normal use.

Use of advanced technologies

48. With reference to the use of reverse vending machines in supermarkets of some European countries to encourage recycling, a Member suggested the Government make use of similar technologies to facilitate recycling in Hong Kong. Mr Donald Ng replied that a feasibility study on the PRS on plastic bottles containing beverage and personal care products had been commissioned. Reference would be made to overseas practices and consideration would be given as to whether they were suitable for adoption in Hong Kong.

49. In response to a Member's enquiry on whether the Government would encourage the use of food waste disposer as a means of treating food waste which could then be flushed into the toilet, Mr Donald Ng said that having regard to local constraints, the Government considered that Hong Kong should go for promoting the reduction of food waste generation at source and centralized treatment of food waste and Waste-to-Energy for recycling of food waste.

Assistance for the needy

50. The Chairman said that some people considered that the proposal to increase the standard rate of the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) Scheme by \$10 per person per month upon the implementation of MSW charging might not accord well with the “polluter-pays” principle and lower the motivation of CSSA recipients to reduce waste.

51. Mr Donald Ng explained that the responsibility to reduce waste should be shared by the whole community and exemption from MSW charging was not recommended as it was not in line with the “polluter-pays” principle. Given that the CSSA recipients were also required to purchase designated garbage bags for waste disposal, they would be motivated to reduce waste in order to save money. Comparing with the option of providing free designated garbage bags to all CSSA recipients, it was considered that the proposal of increasing the CSSA allowance could provide more incentives to achieve waste reduction.

52. A Member opined that the Government should explore possible measures and support to help those service providers with comparatively higher disposal needs, such as elderly homes, to reduce waste at source.

53. Mr Donald Ng said that the Government had all along been promoting the reduction of waste at source and providing support to different stakeholders as appropriate. Given that disposal needs of individuals varied due to many factors and circumstances, it might not be practicable to provide subsidies based on “reasonable” disposal. Instead, outreaching teams would be set up to reach out to different sectors and trades to provide necessary on-site guidance and assistance in implementing MSW charging and strengthening recycling support.

54. On a Member's enquiry relating to the impact of the charging scheme on the livelihood of frontline street-level recyclers, Mr Donald Ng said that MSW charging would provide economic incentives for people to reduce waste and practise recycling. It should help increase the total volume of recyclables.

Publicity and education

55. A Member supported the early launching of MSW charging. Using the ban on idling vehicles with running engines as an example, he considered that full compliance especially at the initial stage would be difficult to achieve as it would

take time for the necessary behavioral changes to take place and for publicity and education to take effect. Four other Members shared this view as well.

56. A Member expressed his support and appreciation towards the Government's efforts in formulating and launching the scheme. He suggested that the Government should appeal to the public for their efforts and participation in making the scheme successful. Apart from source separation and recycling of waste, he considered it more important to promote waste reduction at source.

57. A Member pointed out that as waste disposal duties in households were mostly undertaken by foreign domestic helpers, it was important that publicity and education could reach out to this group. He further suggested that the Government should promote the "waste less" concept to housewives, domestic helpers as well as the operators of business establishments so that they would not purchase more than what they genuinely needed.

58. A Member suggested that the Government should monitor the progress and conduct regular reviews after launching the scheme with a view to improving on the operation of the scheme. Mr Donald Ng said that MSW charging aimed at creating financial incentives to achieve waste reduction. Its impact on amount of waste dumped would be taken as one of the major indicators when measuring the effectiveness of the scheme. Mr Ng further said that according to feedback received at public forums, many people were keen to practise clean recycling but were unsure how it could be done. As such, the Government would accord priority to organizing more publicity and educational campaigns to promote public awareness of and understanding in this area.

Conclusion

59. The Chairman thanked the representatives of ENB for their presentation and concluded that Members were supportive of the MSW charging and would like to see its early implementation. He commended the Government's efforts in modifying the proposed arrangements having regard to comments from Members and various stakeholders. He suggested that the Government should put in place sufficient manpower and resources for making necessary preparations for launching the scheme and conduct regular reviews to improve the scheme as it further developed.

[The subject team left the meeting at this juncture.]

Internal Discussion Session (Closed-door session)

60. A Member concurred with the Chairman that the Government should put in place sufficient resources for the early preparation of the launch of the MSW charging. She also suggested providing financial assistance to the recycling industry, especially for recyclers collecting low-value recyclables.

61. Mr Donald Tong thanked Members for their support for the MSW charging scheme. With reference to the experience of the Taipei City and Seoul, he said that challenges were expected especially at the initial stages and the Government would strive to plan well ahead to meet such challenges and make improvements as the scheme further developed. The Government understood the need to provide sufficient resources to step up extensive publicity and educational campaigns especially on clean recycling during the preparatory period from end 2017 or early 2018. The pilot scheme of the outreaching teams would also be launched in selected districts to provide assistance to residents in implementing MSW charging and in practising clean recycling and proper waste source separation. After consulting relevant parties including the District Councils and the Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data, consideration might be given to install surveillance cameras to combat illegal waste disposal. Besides, the feasibility of using mobile applications would be explored to encourage the reporting of illegal waste disposal. To underline the Government's commitment to implementing MSW charging, Mr Tong said that a Municipal Solid Waste Reduction Office would be set up to subsume all relevant resources in the EPD on MSW charging, and be responsible for taking forward the preparation, implementation, enforcement and review of MSW charging in conjunction with other departments. This office would also work with various stakeholders including owners' corporations, property management companies, PWCs, and the C&I sectors to help the community prepare for the implementation of the charging scheme.

Item 5 : Report of the 131st Environmental Impact Assessment Subcommittee Meeting

(ACE Paper 24/2017)

62. On the invitation of the Chairman, the Chairperson of EIASC reported that ACE Paper No. 24/2017 had summarized the discussion and recommendations of EIASC on the EIA report in relation to the "Housing Sites in Yuen Long South". With no further comments from Members, the Chairman concluded that the

meeting agreed to recommend the Director of Environmental Protection (DEP) endorse the EIA report with the conditions and recommendations as set out in para. 12 of the ACE Paper.

Item 6 : Any other business (Closed-door session)

63. There was no other business for discussion at the meeting.

Item 7 : Date of next meeting (Closed-door session)

64. The Chairman advised Members that the next ACE meeting was scheduled for 4 December 2017 (Monday). Members would be advised on the agenda in due course.

**ACE Secretariat
December 2017**