

**Confirmed Minutes of the 196th Meeting of
the Advisory Council on the Environment
held on 11 November 2013 at 2:30 pm**

Present:

Prof Paul LAM, JP (Chairman)

Prof CHAU Kwai-cheong, JP (Deputy Chairman)

Dr Dorothy CHAN, BBS

Dr Gary ADES

Prof FUNG Tung

Dr HUNG Wing-tat, MH

Prof John NG

Miss Yolanda NG, MH

Prof Nora TAM, BBS, JP

Dr Alfred TAM

Dr Eric TSANG

Dr Carrie WILLIS, SBS, JP

Prof Jonathan WONG, MH

Mr Luther WONG

Ms Pansy YAU

Dr Eric YIP

Mr Andrew LAI (Secretary)

Absent with Apologies:

Mr Oscar CHOW

Dr Billy HAU

Prof LI Xiang-dong

Mr Anthony LOCK

Prof Ray YEP

Prof Ignatius YU

In Attendance:

Ms Anissa WONG, JP	Permanent Secretary for the Environment/ Director of Environmental Protection
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Mr Y K CHAN	Assistant Director (Conservation), Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD)
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Ms Esther LI	Principal Information Officer, Environmental Protection Department (EPD)
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Miss Evelyn LEUNG	Chief Executive Officer (CBD), EPD
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Ms Joanne CHIN	Executive Officer (CBD), EPD
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Ms Daicie TONG	Executive Manager (CBD), EPD
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In Attendance for Item 3:

Dr Albert CHAU Wai-lap	Chairman, Task Force of External Lighting
Ir Simon CHUNG	Members, Task Force of External Lighting
Mr Edwin LAU	Members, Task Force of External Lighting
Mrs Dorothy MA	Secretary, Task Force of External Lighting
Ms Lydia SZE	Senior Consultant, Hong Kong Productivity Council

In Attendance for Item 4:

Mr Howard CHAN	Deputy Director of Environmental Protection (2) (Des.), EPD
Mr Samson LAI	Assistant Director (Waste Management Policy), EPD
Dr Ellen CHAN	Assistant Director (Environmental Infrastructure), EPD

In Attendance for Item 5:

Mr Samson LAI	Assistant Director (Waste Management Policy), EPD
Dr Alain LAM	Principal Environmental Protection Officer (Waste Management Policy), EPD

Action

Item 1 : Confirmation of the draft minutes of the 195th meeting held on 9 September 2013

The draft minutes of the last meeting were confirmed subject to an amendment to paragraph 65(f) proposed by a Member –

“(f) *There should be a good synergy of the NDAs with the existing Fanling/ Sheung Shui New Town for development into a coherent green community/neighbourhood to also serve the NENT hinterland.*”

Item 2 : Matters arising from the minutes of the 195th meeting held on 9 September 2013

2. The Chairman informed Members that the new administrative arrangements for ACE and EIA Subcommittee (EIASC) meetings had been uploaded on the Council’s website for public information. The new initiatives

were –

- (i) extending the broadcasting arrangements of ACE meetings from open discussion sessions on EIA reports to include presentation and question-and-answer sessions on discussions relating to environmental policy matters;
- (ii) publishing bilingual agenda of meetings of ACE and EIASC on the ACE's website for public information; and
- (iii) providing simultaneous interpretation (SI) service for ACE and EIASC meetings if interested parties make registrations with the ACE Secretariat three working days before the meetings.

3. The Chairman advised that the meeting proceedings for Items 3-5 would be broadcasted live in the Public Viewing Room. After the presentation and question-and-answer sessions for each of the open discussion items, Members would have an internal discussion where necessary and that would be closed to the public. Whilst the discussion papers were prepared in English, an ACE meeting or any part of it could be conducted in Chinese if the Council considered the change appropriate. Having regard to better utilization of resources and allowing simultaneous interpreters sufficient time to prepare for the work, ACE Secretariat would arrange SI service for meetings subject to advance request from the public. The Nature Conservation Subcommittee and Waste Management Subcommittee could adopt similar arrangements for their meetings as appropriate.

Item 3 : Task Force on External Lighting – Engagement of Stakeholders and the Public

(ACE Paper 14/2013)

4. Two Members advised that the organizations which they had close connection had submitted comments on the engagement document. The meeting agreed that they could stay on and participate in the discussion.

5. In reply to a Member's enquiry on the handling of ACE's views on the subject, the Chairman advised that the minutes of meeting incorporating Members' comments on the document would be provided to the Task Force on External Lighting (Task Force), and a separate submission would not be necessary unless Members had other strong views on the issue. The meeting agreed to this approach.

6. The Chairman said that the discussion would be divided into the Presentation Session and Question-and-Answer Sessions which would be opened to the public and the Internal Discussion Session which would remain closed.

[The team joined the meeting at this juncture.]

Presentation Session (Open Session)

7. Dr Albert Chau advised that the Task Force issued an engagement document in August 2013 to solicit views from the public on the proposed switch-off requirement on external lighting of decorative, promotional or advertising purposes affecting the outdoor environment after a pre-set time. Ms Lydia Sze briefed the meeting on the following aspects via a powerpoint presentation –

- (a) External lighting in Hong Kong;
- (b) Lighting Environmental Zoning System;
- (c) Light nuisance and energy wastage according to international experiences;
- (d) Proposed switch-off requirement;
- (e) Determination of pre-set time;
- (f) Exemptions; and
- (g) Implementation approach.

Question-and-Answer Session (Open Session)

8. A Member supported the proposed switch-off requirement and opined that the pre-set time from 11 p.m. to 7 a.m. should be adopted in line with other relevant statutory requirements, e.g. the Noise Control Ordinance. Exemptions should only be granted in respect of lighting for security, safety or operational purposes with prior registration/approval of the relevant authorities. Special exemption during festival periods could be set for specific date/time and be confined to urban areas such as Yau Tsim Mong and Wanchai districts. He supported the switch-off requirement to be launched in two stages, firstly to develop a Charter Scheme to familiarize stakeholders and solicit support from the community on the arrangement; and to implement mandatory regulation in the second stage taking into account the experience of the Charter Scheme.

9. Another Member shared the Member's views on the implementation

approach and suggested that the Task Force should also consider the impact of external lighting to natural areas such as country parks, rural areas and green belts in urban districts so as to invite wider discussions in the community. He was concerned about light nuisance to the fauna and flora habitats caused by sky glow from urban districts. For instance, Tai Mo Shan was impacted by lighting from Tsuen Wan/Tsing Yi.

10. A Member echoed the views and urged the Government to protect the health of those residents living in mixed commercial and residential areas. He stressed that from medical angle, the proposed light-off time from 11 p.m. to 7 a.m. was the minimum for the 8-hour sleep threshold for the well-being of children and adolescent in particular. The Member suggested the adoption of the Lighting Environmental Zoning System not only for the city areas but also for areas which currently were relatively less populated such as new towns in order to guard against light intrusion from developments in these areas in future.

11. In response to the Chairman's question on lighting in country parks, Mr Y K Chan clarified that protected and ecologically important areas in remote locations were less impacted by existing lighting as only highways and public roads in these areas were lit to provide basic lighting.

12. A Member asked about the response from the affected parties as their comments could influence the decision of the pre-set time, scope of exemption and specified date/time for festival periods. He also supported the mandatory regulation to be preceded by a Charter Scheme and urged that the Charter Scheme stage be kept as short as practicable.

13. Dr Albert Chau replied that while the Task Force had not identified specific parties affected by light nuisance in specific areas/districts during the engagement exercise, they had been consulting District Councils, business groups and other stakeholders in the local community. Public views were diverse on the subject. As regard to the implementation approach, Dr Chau said that some parties requested for immediate regulation while business groups and professional bodies were concerned about impact on the economy and tourism, as well as the acclaimed night scenery of Hong Kong as the "Pearl of the Orient". He said that the Task Force would continue collecting feedback until close of the consultation on 18 November 2013.

14. A Member supported the zoning system and considered that many regions in Hong Kong could be classified as zone E4 (High district brightness).

This was shared by another Member who opined that the system could provide clear guidance for external lighting installations in different zones to facilitate long-term planning. He pointed out that it was also important to examine the illumination level of the lighting structures irrespective of adoption of any energy efficient measures as lighting at high intensity level was a source of light nuisance.

15. A Member shared her experience in handling complaints on external lighting at the district level. She opined that the self-regulatory approach had proved not effective, and mandatory regulation was necessary to enforce light pollution control. She supported the pre-set time from 11 p.m. to 7 a.m. and that exemption should be confined to lighting for security and safety purposes. Guidelines should be drawn up for the business sector to control the extent of lighting impact to the neighborhood. The Member noted that the Task Force had collected feedback from District Councils.

16. Two Members echoed the views of other Members and opined that Hong Kong should adopt a proper mix of regulatory measures to suit the needs of different zones in Hong Kong. One of the Members considered it necessary to regulate the dimension and illumination level of signboards, video walls and other lighting installations. He enquired if the Task Force had studied the potential impact on the economy of Hong Kong if the switch-off requirement was implemented. Another Member suggested the Task Force to review the zoning system especially for natural areas/country parks and to implement measures to control the light glare effect to these sensitive areas. She proposed that Hong Kong could develop a unique three-tier zoning system with different switch-off requirements. This might be operated on (i) zoning of intrinsically dark areas; (ii) rural areas with low district brightness; and (iii) urban areas/tourist spots with high district brightness. The Member also opined that mandatory regulation must be accompanied by mindset changes in the community to ensure success in controlling the lighting impact.

17. A Member remarked that the switch-off requirement must be supported by mandatory regulation. She considered that the pre-set switch-off time should not be extended to mid-night as there were already conditions for exemptions for specific purposes.

18. Another Member supported mandatory regulation and advised that the BEAM Plus rating system had provided standards of light emission and zoning information to the construction industry to encourage the sector to take on their

corporate responsibilities as well as to provide a basis for the community to tide over to the regulation of external lighting. The Member suggested adopting a hybrid system with different levels of lighting control in different zones to balance between business operation and minimizing nuisance to sensitive receivers.

19. Referring to the assessment of the lighting impact in natural areas and areas with ecologically significance, Ir Simon Chung advised that the Task Force had conducted preliminary study on impact of sky glow to country parks and the rural environment, and noted that natural species required different hours of complete darkness for normal growth. He supplemented that the engagement exercise focused principally on how the international standard could be applied in Hong Kong to reduce the lighting impact on people living in the highly urbanized areas. Ir Chung said that the Task Force would consider Members' comments regarding the impact on areas which were zoned E1 (Intrinsically dark).

20. Mr Edwin Lau shared his experience in handling a complaint on an international enterprise which declined switching off its promotional and in-store lighting beyond mid-night as Hong Kong had no regulation on light nuisance. He considered that as a general guideline, the illumination level and dimension of the lighting installation should be regulated.

21. In response to Members' enquiry on why the international zoning system might not be applicable in Hong Kong, Mrs Dorothy Ma explained that since Hong Kong as a whole was highly urbanized, the adoption of a zoning system would not provide appropriate solution to tackle light nuisance and energy wastage problems in areas such as Wanchai and Yau Tsim Mong districts. She advised that the Country Parks Ordinance had already empowered relevant authorities to deal with lighting structures or pollution that affected wild life in country parks and ecologically important areas. Mrs Ma also advised on the key feedback from the local community objecting to the mandatory regulation, being (i) the signs of the shops would be regulated even in the absence of complaints from residents; (ii) residents who were active at night would not expect an entirely dark and undisturbed environment in the more urbanized parts of the city; and (iii) Hong Kong's world acclaimed night scenery would be affected by the light control measures. Regarding the concern on flashing light installations, Mrs Ma informed that the Task Force proposed to mandate sign boards at the shop front should not flash after 11 p.m. She further explained that due to the practical difficulties to single out the effect of the switch-off

requirement on the business environment and to obtain relevant quantitative data, the Task Force had not laid out an assessment in this aspect in the engagement document.

22. A Member reiterated his concern that the public health dimension had to be taken into account when assessing the impact of external lighting, and that the community had to look beyond the current city centre for monitoring the lighting impact with appropriate regulation for protection of our future generations. Another Member pointed out that the luminance of objects/structures should be evaluated in relative terms as the same light intensity would have different effects on the neighbourhood in different zones of Hong Kong. A Member remarked that lighting directed towards the sky could affect migratory birds and bats.

23. A Member commented that the switch-off requirement could tackle both the light nuisance problems and also issues on energy saving and resource efficiency. She opined that there would only be a marginal benefit for a small number of tourists by retaining the spectacular night scenery after 11 p.m. in comparison with the high marginal costs brought about by the extended use of electricity and the social impacts on the general public in Hong Kong.

24. In reply to a Member's enquiry about the effectiveness of the Charter Scheme and the reasons for not immediately implementing the mandatory regulation, Dr Albert Chau commented that lead time was required to prepare the legislation and elicit behavioural changes in the community. The Charter Scheme could serve as an interim arrangement to engage relevant parties to follow the guidelines and practices in the Charter Scheme before the regulation took effect. Mrs Dorothy Ma quoted the example of the Energy Saving Charter on Indoor Temperature and on No Incandescent Light Bulbs which could demonstrate the effectiveness of the charter schemes. In the case of external lighting, she said that by implementing the Charter Scheme, the Government would be in a better position to understand how the switch-off requirement would operate and to gain experience for implementing the regulation in future.

25. Ms Anissa Wong advised that promoting environmental causes would inevitably involve changes in behaviour and mindset in the community. She advised that the Government had experiences in implementing charter schemes concerning environmental issues. The recent example was the Food Wise Charter for promoting food waste reduction. Under that charter, signees could go through the process of food waste reduction by adopting different measures

and procedural plans. The experience would smoothen the implementation arrangements and help modify the public's behaviour on handling food waste.

26. Concerning the light impact on zone E1 (Intrinsically dark) and zone E2 (Low district brightness), Ir Simon Chung explained that the effect of lighting had been taken into account at their Technical Standards and Parameters Working Group meetings. The proposed pre-set time at 11 p.m. for switching off decorative, promotional or advertising lighting installations would provide an interim transition for handling the light nuisance problem in the two zones.

27. Dr Albert Chau informed that the Task Force would further deliberate on the implementation timetable, enforcement arrangements and measures to elicit behavioral changes in the community before mandating the switch-off requirement. The Task Force would continue gauging public's views on the proposal before taking the matter forward.

28. The Chairman summarized Members' views as follows –

- (a) the Council supported the appropriate pre-set time for the switch-off requirement from 11 p.m. to 7 a.m.;
- (b) the Council supported the mandatory regulation, to be preceded by a Charter Scheme so as to facilitate changes of behaviour in the community and to consolidate experiences in regulating external lighting;
- (c) the Council was in favor of adopting a zoning system for future urban planning and the protection of the natural environment as well as the currently unaffected areas from the lighting impact; and
- (d) the Council suggested the Task Force to consider measures for controlling and monitoring the illumination level and dimension of the lighting structures.

Item 4 : Administrative and Legislative Measures relating to the "Waste Diversion Plan" for the Southeast New Territories Landfill
(ACE Paper 15/2013)

29. The Chairman informed that the discussion of the administrative and legislative measures relating to the "Waste Diversion Plan" for the Southeast New Territories (SENT) Landfill would be divided into the open Presentation and Question-and-Answer Sessions while the Internal Discussion Session would

remain closed. He noted that there was no declaration of interest from Members.

[The team joined the meeting at this juncture.]

Presentation Session (Open Session)

30. Mr Samson Lai briefed Members on the administrative and legislative measures relating to the “Waste Diversion Plan (the Plan)” and the complementary initiatives to be implemented for SENT Landfill in addressing the environmental concerns of the local community.

Question-and-Answer Session (Open Session)

31. A Member opined that the Plan would result in extra transportation costs and fuel emissions for diverting municipal solid waste (MSW) from east Kowloon to alternative waste disposal facilities. He said that the Plan would also cause injustice across districts. It would also aggravate the traffic load along the collection routes where the refuse collection vehicles (RCVs) had to move through as some of the refuse transfer stations (RTSs) such as the Shatin Transfer Station (STTS) did not have seafront access for marine transport. The Member suggested that retrofitting of RCVs should be carried out independent of the Plan to alleviate concerns in the community, as operation of RCVs would inevitably cause certain nuisance to residents along the collection routes or living near the RTSs. He opined that the Government should not give in to local pressure to divert MSW from SENT Landfill to the other two landfills in North District and Tuen Mun but to carry out the waste management policy in a complete package. Another Member echoed that the Government should give due consideration to the equity issue when pushing forth the Plan.

32. A Member shared his view on the strategic planning of SENT Landfill in Tseung Kwan O. With rapid urban developments of Tseung Kwan O in the past decade, public and private residential estates had been built close to SENT Landfill, e.g. LOHAS Park which was just 1 km from the southeastern end of the landfill. Local residents inevitably were affected by the odour and hygiene problems. Government should take special measures to address their concerns. Taking a pragmatic approach, he supported the Plan to divert MSW away from SENT Landfill so that it could rectify the odour problem which was the key complaint source in the local community while freeing up its remaining capacity for non-odour generating construction waste.

33. In response to a Member' enquiry on whether establishing new RTSs would render some of the existing ones obsolete when incineration and other waste treatment facilities became operational in the coming years, Dr Ellen Chan informed that the Government had plans to divert waste generated in west Kowloon and on Hong Kong Island to the incinerator proposed in an artificial island off Shek Kwu Chau. In fact, more RTSs would be planned especially in the eastern part of the territory. As SENT Landfill had a finite operational life and capacity, building more RTSs in the territory would help pave way for diverting waste to the other two landfills when SENT Landfill was filled up. Dr Chan elaborated that the Government would look for sites for new RTSs with seafront access, as marine transport was a more environmentally-friendly and efficient mode of operation to transfer refuse direct to the West New Territories (WENT) Landfill in Tuen Mun. The trade could also take the opportunity to review their service and rationalize refuse collection routes as appropriate.

34. Ms Anissa Wong explained that RTSs served as the logistic hubs for handling MSW and there was no question of them becoming obsolete. By establishing RTSs, RCVs could deliver waste to a nearby RTS where the waste would be compacted for bulk transfer to a landfill, thus reducing the road traffic arising from waste collection. On the proposal on restricting SENT Landfill to receive only construction waste, Ms Wong informed that the landfill would reach its full capacity by end of 2015 if it was not extended, and the Government planned to re-submit the extension proposal to the Legislative Council (LegCo) in the first quarter of 2014. There were divergent views in the community on landfill-related proposals including the present one. As always, in coming up with any environmental proposal, the Government had to balance all factors and concerns in the whole community. The specific waste diversion arrangements were being worked out by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) taking into account their existing collection routes as well as the unused capacity in different RTSs. Private waste collectors would also perform similar planning. Reducing the fees at some RTSs would provide an incentive for achieving an optimized use of the RTS system. She appealed for Members' support for the Plan.

35. A Member agreed that that the Government should target its efforts on the protection/rectification measures if substantial portion of sensitive receivers were involved or the social impacts were extensive. The problems confronting SENT Landfill were the most serious among the three landfills in view of its close proximity to residential developments in Tseung Kwan O. While recognizing the issue on social equity, the Member supported the waste

diversion proposal to tackle the odour and hygiene problems and to gain support for extending the work life span of SENT Landfill by receiving only construction waste. With regard to RTSs, she agreed that sufficient RTSs should be maintained to collect, compact and transfer wastes to the waste treatment facilities in remote areas. The Member suggested upgrading existing RTSs and incorporating in new RTSs the facilities of sorting, separation and recycling in addition to waste compaction. She also supported retrofitting RCVs to address the odour and hygiene problems. The Member highlighted the importance of proper management and enforcement for ensuring success of these measures. On retrofitting of RCVs, she considered that the estimated cost at \$50,000 per vehicle was on the high side.

36. A Member supported retrofitting of RCVs. He asked for more information on the possible sites for RTSs, plan(s) on rationalizing the collection routes, and any traffic impact assessment (TIA) on roads impacted by the increased vehicular flow as a result of the re-routing of RCVs and the expected benefits. Another Member opined that the key issues were how to optimize the use of refuse treatment facilities for providing the necessary buffer for the Government to move progressively towards the next stage of waste management plan. She supported retrofitting RCVs and considered that the traffic problems arising from re-routing of RCVs should be manageable with good planning. A Member pointed out that STTS was already operating above 80% of its design capacity. She opined that the Government should consider providing incentives to encourage wider use of the Outlying Islands Transfer Facilities and the North Lantau Transfer Station which had seafront access.

37. Mr Samson Lai clarified that FEHD would re-route some of their refuse collection service and take the lead for enhancing the use of the currently under-utilized RTSs, namely the North Lantau, Island East and Island West Transfer Stations. These measures would free up RTS capacity in the more central locations such as the West Kowloon and Shatin Transfer Stations for use by private waste collectors. Such arrangements would not overload the RTSs or the local traffic because each RTS would still operate within its individual design capacity which was determined after taking into account the full-capacity traffic impact.

38. A Member considered that public's acceptance of the Plan hinged mainly on the success of re-routing of RCVs by FEHD and in incentivizing the private waste collectors on the use of RTSs with capacity thus freed up. He asked for more information on the re-routing and degree of reliance on the

private waste collectors for assessing the viability of the Plan. Another Member also asked for details of the distribution of RTSs vis-à-vis the locations of the three landfills.

39. Mr Samson Lai appreciated Members' concerns about the sensitivity of the proposal in view of the community's divergent views on the landfill extension projects. He said that the Government had been working on all fronts to tackle the waste problem and had been proactive in promoting waste reduction and recycling. He also highlighted the improvements to the entire waste collection system that the proposal would bring about. For example, retrofitting of RCVs would benefit the whole territory, and optimizing the use of RTSs would facilitate the implementation of waste diversion with minimized impact on the traffic and environmental hygiene. As a next step, EPD was working with FEHD and would further engage the refuse collection trade and individual private waste collectors on specific waste diversion arrangements. Proposals for RTS fee reductions and introducing mandatory RCV equipment standard requirement would be put to LegCo before end of 2013. Funding application was being made for offering a one-off subsidy for the retrofitting of RCVs to comply with the new requirement.

40. Dr Ellen Chan supplemented that great care had been taken to ensure the three landfills were being operated to meet international standards, and continued efforts would be made to enhance pollution and odour control. As regards the scope for upgrading existing RTSs, Dr Chan shared that the Government had vision for future generations of RTSs to incorporate other facilities like sorting and recycling, while looking for opportunity to enhance the existing RTSs under current operational constraints.

41. In reply to a Member's enquiry on whether the Government would consider separating the retrofitting of RCVs from the waste diversion proposal in view of the divided views in the community on the latter, Mr Samson Lai replied that the retrofitting of RCVs was part of the overall waste management strategy, and the Government had been seeking funding support from LegCo's Finance Committee for retrofitting RCVs.

42. The Chairman concluded that Members shared some different views on the waste diversion proposal. The Government should take into account views of the community and balance the needs of the whole territory, key stakeholders and sensitive receivers in the local community. The meeting was unanimously supportive of optimizing the use of RTSs and retrofitting of RCVs.

Item 5 : Public Consultation on a Producer Responsibility Scheme on Glass Beverage Bottles

(ACE Paper 16/2013)

43. The Chairman informed that the discussion would be divided into the open Presentation and Question-and-Answer Sessions and the closed Internal Discussion Session. There was no declaration of interest from Members.

[The team joined the meeting at this juncture.]

Presentation Session (Open Session)

44. Mr Samson Lai informed Members that the Government had completed a public consultation for introducing a mandatory producer responsibility scheme (PRS) to enhance the management of waste glass beverage bottles. Feedback from the community was very positive. He briefed Members on the background of the scheme and the proposed way forward.

Question-and-Answer Session (Open Session)

45. Two Members enquired about the setting of the recycling fee and whether the costs of waste collection and treatment would be recovered under the “polluter pays” principle. One of the Members asked further on the handling capacity of the private recyclers, local demand for the recycled glass materials and incentives to boost the recycling rate.

46. With regard to the number of glass management contractors (GMCs) to be engaged, a Member suggested designating a GMC for each of the five legislative constituencies. As for setting the price of the recycled glass materials, he considered that the level should be determined by free market force and not by the Government as proposed. The contractors should be encouraged to sell the recycled materials at profit and share the proceeds with the Government. He supported the establishment of Community Green Stations (CGSs) to enhance public understanding of recycling and the collection service. As CGSs should play a pivotal role in reaching out to the community, the operators should be advocates for waste reduction instead of waste management companies which in general were business-oriented.

47. Mr Samson Lai explained that when deciding on the number of GMCs to be engaged, the Government had to consider waste generation figures in the commercial and industrial sectors which might not tally with geographical distribution of the population. On price setting of the recycled glass materials, Mr Lai clarified that recycled glass materials would mainly be used in public works projects. Being Government properties, the glass materials had to be used by works contractors at certain price level as determined by the Government from time to time. As regards the incentive mechanism under the PRS, the GMCs would be required to meet the recovery target set by the Government and would be in a position to devise competitive incentive arrangements to suit the business models to boost the recovery rate. Regarding the CGS initiative, Mr Lai elaborated that both public education and recycling support elements would be incorporated in the initiative. The CGS operators would be required to organize education activities on environmental protection notably on recycling, and to reach out to schools, institutions and property management at local level proactively, with the objective of changing people's behavior and instilling a green living concept in the local community. They would also have to provide logistical support for recycling. The operation of CGSs would be open for bidding by competent NGOs.

48. The Chairman concluded that Members took note of the consultation results on the PRS on glass beverage bottles and were supportive of the proposed way forward.

Item 6: Any other business

(a) EIASC's report on non-selected EIA reports

49. The Chairperson of EIASC, reported that since the last Council meeting held on 9 September 2013, EIASC had received the Executive Summary of the following four environmental impact assessment (EIA) reports which were not selected by EIASC for discussion –

- (i) “Proposed Road Improvement Works in West Kowloon Reclamation Development Phase 1” submitted by the Highways Department;
- (ii) “Reprovisioning of FEHD Sai Yee Street Vehicle Depot at Yen Ming Road, West Kowloon Reclamation Area” submitted by FEHD;
- (iii) “Development of Organic Waste Treatment Facilities Phase 2” submitted by EPD; and

- (iv) “Outlying Islands Sewerage Stage 2 – Upgrading of Cheung Chau Sewage Collection, Treatment and Disposal Facilities” submitted by the Drainage Services Department.

50. The Chairperson of EIASC informed that the Executive Summary of the EIA reports had been circulated to EIASC Members, and the relevant hyperlinks had also been copied to non-EIASC Members. Individual Members had been reminded to send their comments, if any, on the EIA reports directly to DEP within the respective public inspection periods. The EIA report on the Cheung Chau sewerage project would be exhibited until 28 November 2013. Given that the EIA reports were not selected by EIASC for presentation and discussion, EPD would take that ACE had no comment on the EIA reports. The meeting agreed.

(b) Stakeholders’ engagement session by the ACE

51. The Chairman briefed Members on the proposal for ACE to hold an engagement session to reinforce the understanding of key stakeholders on the Council’s role and functions and to hear their views towards its work. He invited Members to comment on the proposal and the associated arrangements.

52. Members unanimously supported ACE to provide a platform for enhancing communications and trust-building with key stakeholders in the community. They welcomed the proposal and put forward the following suggestions for the planning of the event –

- (i) It should be a briefing session on the existing advisory role and operation of ACE. It should principally be an information-giving session focusing on enhancing communications with stakeholders and removing their misunderstanding on the role and scope of work of ACE. It would be an important step in the trust-building process and in establishing long-term relationship with the stakeholders;
- (ii) In managing expectations from the participants, the invitation should spell out clearly that the briefing session was information- giving and not an engagement exercise for bringing reforms or changes in rules for ACE;
- (iii) The briefing session should be a closed session so that participants could express views in a frank and objective atmosphere. There should be a well-structured presentation on the advisory role and work of ACE and its subcommittees, to be followed by a question-and-answer session from the floor;

- (iv) For hearing balanced views at the briefing session, key stakeholders from different sectors in the community would be invited. Green groups, chambers of commerce, Heung Yee Kuk, District Councils as well as relevant professional bodies should be invited;
- (v) The briefing session was proposed to be held on a Saturday morning in January 2014; and
- (vi) ACE could consider conducting further briefing sessions for other stakeholder groups if the response was positive.

53. The Chairman thanked Members for the comments. The ACE Secretariat would work out the associated arrangements and keep Members informed of the progress.

Item 5 : Date of next meeting

54. The Chairman informed Members that the next meeting was scheduled on 9 December 2013. Members would be informed of the agenda in due course.

ACE Secretariat
November 2013