

**Confirmed Minutes of the 197th Meeting of
the Advisory Council on the Environment
held on 9 December 2013**

Present:

Prof Paul LAM, JP (Chairman)

Dr Gary ADES

Dr Dorothy CHAN, BBS

Mr Oscar CHOW

Prof FUNG Tung

Dr Billy HAU

Dr HUNG Wing-tat, MH

Mr Anthony LOCK

Prof John NG

Miss Yolanda NG, MH

Prof Nora TAM, BBS, JP

Dr Alfred TAM

Dr Eric TSANG

Prof Jonathan WONG, MH

Ms Pansy YAU

Prof Ray YEP

Prof Ignatius YU

Mr Andrew LAI (Secretary)

Absent with Apologies:

Prof CHAU Kwai-cheong, JP (Deputy Chairman)

Prof LI Xiang-dong

Dr Carrie WILLIS, SBS, JP

Mr Luther WONG

Dr Eric YIP

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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Mr LING Chi-tack	Assistant Director of Planning/Technical Services, Planning Department (PlanD)
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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
Ms Daicie TONG	Executive Manager (CBD), EPD

In Attendance for Item 3:

Hon Bernard CHAN, GBS, JP	Chairman, Council for Sustainable Development (SDC)
Prof Nora TAM, BBS, JP	Convenor, Support Group on Municipal Solid Waste Charging, SDC
Ir Kenny WONG	Principal Consultant, The Hong Kong Productivity Council (HKPC)
Mr Tommy MARTIN	Associate Consultant, HKPC
Mr Samson LAI	Assistant Director (Waste Management Policy), EPD

In Attendance for Item 4:

Mr Edward CHAN	Chief Engineer/Project 1 (NTN&W), Civil Engineering and Development Department
Ms April KUN	Chief Town Planner/Studies & Research, PlanD
Mr Y S LEE	Senior Town Planner/Studies & Research 4, PlanD
Mr Y W YEUNG	Project Director, AECOM Asia Company Ltd
Mr P K LEE	Deputy Project Manager, AECOM
Mr Laurent CHEUNG	Associate Director (Air and Noise), AECOM
Ms Polly CHIK	Environmental Consultant (Ecology), AECOM

Action

Item 1 : Confirmation of the draft minutes of the 196th meeting held on 11 November 2013

The draft minutes of the last meeting were confirmed subject to the amendments to paragraph 18 proposed by a Member –

- “18. A 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.”

Item 2 : Matters arising from the minutes of the 196th meeting held on 11 November 2013

2. The Chairman informed Members that the latest plan for organizing a briefing session for key stakeholders would be reported during the closed session under “Any Other Business”.

Item 3 : Council for Sustainable Development: Public Engagement on Municipal Solid Waste Charging – “Waste Reduction by Waste Charging . How to Implement?”

(ACE Paper 18/2013)

3. The Chairman said that the discussion would be divided into two parts; i.e. the Presentation and Question-and-Answer Session would be opened to the public while the Internal Discussion Session would remain closed.

[The team joined the meeting at this juncture.]

Presentation Session (Open Session)

4. Hon Bernard Chan gave an update on the public engagement exercise on municipal solid waste (MSW) charging and the release of the Invitation for Response (IR) document by SDC. Mr Chan advised that a Support Group on MSW Charging (Support Group) chaired by Prof Nora Tam was set up and prepared the IR document, which made reference to experiences in other jurisdictions such as Taipei City and Seoul, and proposed feasible options on the design and implementation of the quantity-based MSW charging scheme. The “user pays” principle and partnership with relevant stakeholders (e.g. building management sector and waste/recycling sectors) were the key elements in the IR document. Mr Chan invited Members’ views on how best to implement MSW charging in Hong Kong, which included the charging mechanism, community concerns on the levels of charging, and a proposed threshold on waste charging having regard to the possible impacts on the underprivileged groups.

5. Prof Nora Tam called for Members’ comments on the four key considerations on how MSW charging could be implemented in Hong Kong, namely the charging mechanism, coverage of the charging scheme, charging level and recycling.

Question-and-Answer Session (Open Session)

6. While acknowledging the work of the Support Group, a Member opined that the public engagement exercise was a duplication of efforts and urged the Government to expedite its work on implementing a comprehensive waste management plan, with MSW charging being one of the key strategies on reducing waste from the domestic sector and the commercial & industrial (C&I) sector. He proposed engaging various stakeholders, including green groups and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to conduct parallel trial schemes with Government's resources and support. The charging scheme could be implemented in phases to allow gradual buy-in in the community. On domestic waste, the Member considered that MSW charging should be imposed at household level rather than by individual buildings, and that the threshold be set at a reasonably achievable level. A "cap and trade" system could be introduced to encourage waste reduction at source and to provide monetary incentive for the underprivileged groups by "selling" their unused quota to those who had generated waste in excess of the threshold. The cap should be tightened progressively over the years. He further suggested that there should be facilities/activities to support the better use of resources (i.e. avoidance of waste) and recycling. NGOs could be invited to run the community green stations proposed for each of the 18 districts to facilitate collection and/or recycling.

7. Hon Bernard Chan said that while there was a clear community support on MSW charging to reduce waste during the public consultation in 2012, there were divided views as how to implement the charging system and the levels of rate to be charged. There would also be challenges in building up partnership with different sectors, such as the C&I sector in which the representatives had expressed strong reservation on the charging scheme unless the Government was prepared to give corresponding rebate from the rate payment. Mr Chan advised that the Government was identifying representative types of households with a view to introducing trials on different charging mechanisms. He also clarified that the waste charges for a three-person household per month mentioned in the IR document were only indicative with reference to the waste charging rate in Taipei City and the current waste disposal rate per capita in Hong Kong. The public should not misunderstand the figures as the MSW rate to be levied in Hong Kong.

8. Prof Nora Tam agreed that the implementation of MSW charging should be expedited so as to catch up with our neighbouring cities. However, we should not underestimate the difficulties in implementation and the

objection/resistance from the building management sector. She said that SDC had proposed introducing trial schemes for different sectors as well as engaging green groups to participate in the trial schemes with a view of formulating a waste charging plan which was practicable and generally acceptable by the public.

9. A Member commended the work of SDC and the Support Group. He echoed the view that the waste charging initiatives should be implemented at the earliest opportunity, and quoted the experience of Taipei City in giving out free garbage bags to the public at the initial stage to get MSW charging off the ground. The Member suggested that different approaches should be devised to cater for the specific needs of different sectors, and the details of implementation could be reviewed after the trial period. He appealed to the Government to assert more efforts in improving the waste collection and recycling facilities and expediting the various waste management incentive schemes in parallel with the MSW charging scheme.

10. Hon Bernard Chan stressed on SDC's role in collating responses from the community in a bottom-up approach, with a view to facilitating consensus building and recommending a workable framework for the Government to implement MSW charging. Mr Chan said that it would be difficult for the whole community to agree on one single mode of charging when the Government first started the scheme. We should allow certain flexibility for different sectors to eventually converge in mapping out a suitable collection mechanism and gain broad acceptance in the community. The different trial schemes could be launched for a period of 3-6 months to try out the viability of different charging mechanisms. With the Government's support and appropriate measures to induce behavioural changes in the community, Mr Chan was confident that Hong Kong could work out a charging scheme that would best suit the local situation.

11. A Member shared that charging by individual households would best serve the waste reduction objective. However, in view that the majority of households in Hong Kong were in multi-story buildings, the Government should consider applying different charging methods at different target groups, e.g. households of different sizes, buildings with or without building management, and special arrangements for the underprivileged groups. She suggested the Government to gear up the trial schemes by sampling new buildings with effective property management to facilitate a smooth implementation of MSW charging. The Member also drew SDC's attention

to the challenge that the Government had to complete a lot of detailed planning and legislative processes before launching the MSW charging scheme.

12. A Member shared his experience in the catering sector. He pointed out that the mode of collecting C&I waste was very different from that of domestic waste. At present, most of the C&I waste was collected by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) after the business closed off for the day. Fly-tipping of C&I waste would likely result if FEHD ceased the collection service or there were no proper collection/disposal facilities nearby when the charging scheme was implemented. He echoed another Member's view on the need to provide facilities in venues such as shopping malls to facilitate recycling at source. The Member also supported that there should be more promotion and public education on food waste reduction particularly on tourists who were not familiar with Hong Kong's measures on waste reduction and recycling. He suggested that the Government should hold further discussions with the small and medium enterprises (SMEs) on MSW charging.

13. Hon Bernard Chan replied that while it would be easier to devise the collection mechanism for C&I waste than that for domestic waste, the Government should give due consideration to the detailed arrangements of the waste collection/disposal facilities and the manpower/resources required to tie-in with the charging system, e.g. monitoring of implementation and enforcement on non-compliance. Ir Kenny Wong supplemented that the C&I sector would be required to use designated garbage bags for C&I waste and bring them to the Refuse Collection Points (RCPs) for weighing and proper disposal upon the launch of MSW charging.

14. As regards the waste charging level, the Chairman suggested that it should be set at a level which would be generally acceptable in the community, rather than on the cost recovery basis. This would help the scheme get off ground first and allow the community to gradually buy-in the charging concept as well as to induce behavioural changes. The public should be informed that they were responsible for the waste they generated, and hence the payment.

15. Hon Bernard Chan reiterated that the charges set out in the IR document were for illustration purpose only. The actual financial impact could be less if the public were vigorous in reducing waste at source. He pointed out that various challenges would need to be addressed, including how the waste threshold should be set and how the designated bags be distributed to

individual households, as well as how the stakeholders such as District Councils and NGOs could be partnered to smoothen the implementation of MSW charging at district level.

16. Prof Nora Tam informed Members that the majority of challenges mentioned were discussed at various focus group meetings, and that SDC was looking into the feasibility of the suggested solutions, having due regard to administrative and privacy concerns. She clarified that the charging rates should be of sufficient weight to induce behavioural changes but not be set for cost recovery. Prof Tam explained that based on the experience in Taipei City, each person was charged \$0.10 for a litre of domestic waste produced. The proposed waste charge was calculated to be \$13 per person or \$39 for a three-person household per month. She supported the proposal to start a trial scheme by giving out free garbage bags to the public as it would help try out the logistical arrangement.

17. A Member asked if SDC would anticipate any unintended consequences arising from the charging system on the catering industry, e.g. nuisance to the neighborhood and pedestrians if the operators just hauled their food waste outside the streets without proper collection/disposal arrangement. He also asked whether the sewerage treatment plants could handle food waste and the possible effect on drain pipe maintenance.

18. In response, Hon Bernard Chan said that it would be unwise to dump food waste into the drains as the sewerage system was not designed to handle such waste. He noted that some enterprises had developed their own food waste treatment facilities to reduce food waste for saving overall operating costs and fulfilling corporate social responsibility. Ir Kenny Wong supplemented that, in the case of Taipei City, a new job category had emerged for providing service to the C&I sector in the collection/disposal activities. He also explained that dumping food waste into drain pipes would damage the sewerage system and the repair works would be substantial.

19. Prof Nora Tam pointed out the general public had not fully appreciated MSW charging as they had not taken into account the costs of providing waste treatment facilities and landfills management which were currently borne by the Government. She said that food waste could be processed into valuable resources such as fertilizers and fish feed which had sustained market demands outside Hong Kong. Prof Tam suggested that the Government could consider providing financial incentives to the food waste

treatment sector which allow them to operate on the recycling side at least on a self-sufficient basis.

20. A Member remarked on the impatience from the general public on the slow progress on the waste charging policy. He was concerned whether the sum collected from MSW charging would be used on recycling and other environment-related initiatives. The Member urged that the Government should give a strong message to the community that MSW charging was implemented for public good, and that the charges collected would be used for public education, researches and promotional campaigns on waste reduction or related matters. He also suggested that SDC could highlight those parts of the charging scheme where public consensus had been secured so as to enlist wider acceptance in the community. Another Member also shared his views on the cyclical relationship of the MSW charges collected and how they would be used so as to gain further public endorsement of the charging scheme.

21. In response, Hon Bernard Chan pointed out that the IR document was so designed to set out all relevant considerations relating to the MSW charging scheme so that the stakeholders and the general public would have sufficient background knowledge on the possible challenges ahead and the behavioural changes to be expected in the community. It was equally important for the Government to provide detailed and tangible solutions on the scheme when it moved the charging policy in the Legislative Council (LegCo) during the legislative process. SDC targeted to provide its recommendations to the Government by second/third quarter of 2014.

22. A Member suggested that a bonus/penalty system could be considered whereby a member of the public who reported on cases of non-compliance or abuse would be allowed to share the penalty so collected. Another Member suggested if the Government would consider making it mandatory that the public must use designated garbage bags when disposing their waste. These garbage bags could be purchased in supermarkets and convenience stores where the public had ready access. Counting on the experience of the plastic shopping bag levy scheme, the public would be expected to throw less waste and use less designate garbage bags eventually, and hence pay less for the MSW charges. A Member echoed that it was important to take forward the MSW charging scheme despite various difficulties anticipated in its initial implementation. The Government should give a strong message that waste reduction was an obligation for every member in the community. Education and media campaigns would have an important role to play. He said that

strong enforcement measures should also be taken against abuse and an appropriate level of penalty be determined to complement enforcement.

23. Ms Anissa Wong thanked SDC for taking on the public engagement on MSW charging. In response to the questions on why the Government did not proceed directly to the legislative process and implement the charging after the first stage of public consultation, Ms Wong explained that while the Government received support on the broad principles and strategy on carrying out environmental initiatives, it needed a lot of time in working out the implementation details as different stakeholders were involved at various stages. On MSW charging, the scheme affected the whole community, with a very wide spectrum of stakeholders each with their specific concerns. It would be conducive to build up consensus through a bottom-up approach in the community on the charging mechanism. This broad consensus was essential before the Government could proceed to the legislative process. The SDC's public engagement exercise was valuable not only in convincing the public of the broad principles of MSW charging and support in the community, but also in reinforcing the sense of ownership amongst the stakeholders that they were part of the process. Agreement on a number of key issues had been reached from the engagement sessions, such as the "user pays" principle and the equity issue. Suggestions collected during the exercise were valuable for the Government in proposing the final charging mechanism that would meet the broad consensus in the community and to get through LegCo.

24. As regards the urgency of taking forward the charging scheme, Ms Anissa Wong said that no waste reduction scheme could call off the need for modern waste treatment facilities. In fact, the development of waste treatment infrastructure could not be delayed further as the capacity of the three landfills was close to their respective lifespan. All new waste treatment facilities inevitably involved years of extensive study, planning and construction before their operation. Further, Ms Wong took note of the call for providing incentives in the charging scheme. The Government would study the need and structure of the incentives. As regards the proposals of using the income from MSW charging or the various mandatory Producer Responsibility Schemes (PRSs) for funding recycling and other environment-related initiatives, Ms Wong advised that under the Public Finance Ordinance, the Government could not hypothecate revenue for any particular purpose. Other than the legal perspective, MSW charging and PRSs were designed to provide an incentive to induce behavioural changes. Revenue so generated from these schemes would diminish over time when they successfully instilled

changes in social behaviour. To ensure sustained support for waste reduction and other environment-related initiatives, it would be desirable if separate and reliable sources could be identified. Indeed, the Environment and Conservation Fund, which had received repeated injection from the Government in the past few years, had provided very strong support to many NGOs and community groups to promote awareness in environmental protection and inculcate behavioural changes.

25. Responding to the suggestions on different trial schemes on MSW charging before its full launch, Ms Anissa Wong said that the Government was working with different sectors including relevant government departments, property management sector and owners' corporations to enlist their support in carrying out the trials. However, there were complications on whether charging should be involved. On the other hand, a voluntary scheme without charging might not bring about behavioral changes and the outcome would not be representative in shaping the final package on the charging mechanism. These issues were being addressed in working out details of the trial exercises.

26. The Chairman concluded that ACE was supportive of the quantity-based MSW charging as well as the need to raise public awareness about the importance of behavioural changes to achieve waste reduction at source. The Council was keen to see the charging scheme be implemented as soon as practicable.

27. Hon Bernard Chan thanked Members for their valuable comments. He said that SDC would work on a charging scheme which should be reasonable and acceptable in the community and would not be too complicated in implementation. He agreed that community education and media campaign were necessary to complement the charging scheme in bringing about behavioural changes. Regarding the bonus/penalty measures under proposal, Mr Chan quoted the experience of Taipei City where a penalty would be levied on those who did not comply with the rules, and the one who reported the offender would share the levy with the city government. SDC would look into possible schemes that would suit the Hong Kong situation. Further suggestions from Members would be welcomed until the close of the engagement exercise on 24 January 2014. Ir Kenny Wong added that a public forum would be held on 18 December 2013, and Members were welcomed to attend the event.

Item 4: Hung Shui Kiu New Development Area Planning and Engineering Study – Preliminary Outline Development Plan and Stage Two Community Engagement

(ACE Paper 19/2013)

28. The Chairman informed that the discussion would be divided into the open Presentation and Question-and-Answer Session and the closed Internal Discussion Session. A Member declared that he was a member of the Expert Panel of Hung Shui Kiu New Development Area and Engineering Study commissioned the Civil Engineering and Development Department (CEDD) and PlanD. Three 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.

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

Presentation Session (Open Session)

29. Mr Edward Chan informed Members that the Stage Two Community Engagement on the Hung Shui Kiu New Development Area (HSK NDA) planning and engineering study was completed in October 2013 and the preliminary environmental impact assessment was undertaken based on HSK NDA Preliminary Outline Development Plan (PODP). Mr P K Lee briefed Members on the PODP of the project.

Question-and-Answer Session (Open Session)

30. Regarding the designation of the Logistics Quarter in the PODP, a Member pointed out that at present many containers were stored there illegally. The Government should rectify the situation rather than legitimizing such land use by designating the area as “Other Specified Uses” (OU) whereby it would basically be used as open storage (OS) area for containers. From planning perspective, the area should not be designated as a backup for container yards as it was not close to the existing container terminals in Tsing Yi and Kwai Chung. He considered that the OU area should be located further towards Tuen Mun area given the development of the new Tuen Mun-Chek Lap Kok Link and Qianhai.

31. Mr Edward Chan replied that the Special Industry Logistics Facility area was proposed in the northwestern portion of the HSK NDA as it was close

to Kong Sham Western Highway (KSWH). It was anticipated that most of the heavy vehicles from the Logistics Quarter to the Mainland, container ports or the Hong Kong International Airport would use the proposed distributor roads underneath KSWH which would lead directly to KSWH, Tuen Mun Western Bypass and Tuen Mun-Chek Lap Kok Link rather than to go around by using other road networks in the area. Mr Chan further advised that only the major road networks were shown in the present POPD. More details on the internal and external connection roads would be shown in the Recommended Outline Development Plan (RODP) scheduled for public consultation in 2014.

32. In response to a Member's question on whether the area of village type development had been expanded under the POPD, Mr Alan Macdonald said that the "Village Type Development" ("V") zone designated under the POPD was same as that of the current outline zoning plans (OZPs), and no expansion to the "V" zone plan was proposed. He shared the concern about the heavy truck traffic in the area, which inevitably would affect the surrounding village type and residential developments. Various buffer zones had been planned around the particularly sensitive types of developments; and in response to the comments from local villagers and residents, expansion to some of these buffer zones was being considered. As regards road safety, he assured that the transport system would be designed to discourage heavy vehicles from accessing the residential area.

33. On the provision of open space in the HSK NDA, Ms April Kun said that about 70 ha of open space were proposed in the POPD for the planned population of 218 000, which was above the 40-ha requirement under the *Hong Kong Planning Standards and Guidelines*. Moreover, another 75 ha of green belts were proposed in the POPD. In reply to the Member's enquiry about the provision of open space in the southern part of the site, Mr Alan Macdonald said that the southern portion of the NDA to the east of Castle Peak Road was characterized by existing clustered villages and private developments. A number of education and Government facilities including open space were also present. Given the presence of these well established communities and limited land for further major developments, substantial intensification of development in this area was not contemplated. A buffer area zoned "Green Belt" along southeastern edge of the NDA would be retained to separate the developments from Yuen Long Highway. A Town Park was also proposed in the heart of the NDA and another open space was proposed along the Tin Shui Wai (TSW) river channel to enhance the living quality of the neighbourhood.

Private residential developments in the NDA would also be required to provide adequate local open space within their own lots. More details on the open space would be provided in the next planning stage.

34. A Member remarked that more details should be provided on the qualitative aspects of the project and how the unique identity of the HSK NDA could be realized in urban design and planning. He suggested that the report should cover the following aspects –

- (a) Response to climatic requirements in terms of micro climate and the urban climatic map situation;
- (b) Quality of public spaces conducive to a pleasant people-oriented community;
- (c) Sustained social interactions by integrating public spaces with recreational facilities, natural reserves and riverine neighbourhood in the area; and
- (d) Energy-efficient designs and green infrastructure/buildings.

35. In response, Mr Edward Chan said that the proposal to remove Tin Ying Road between the HSK NDA and TSW would help the integration of the two areas. The proposed open space along the TSW river channel and the Town Park would provide a relaxing environment. Further consideration would be required on the possibility of using district cooling system as the area was not close to the seafront. They would also consider the re-use of treated effluents for flushing and other purposes in the next planning stage. Mr Alan Macdonald supplemented that they would work out the design parameters to enhance connectivity of these open spaces, with the riverine network as the backbone of an open space framework. As regards the local climatic issues, they had been working carefully on the layout and orientation of buildings that would be well ventilated and provide a pleasant environment. More details would be available in the next stage.

36. A Member suggested the project team to fully address the spatial allocation, nature-human relationship and use of social space by people in the report so that the HSK NDA could qualify as a people-oriented community.

37. A Member enquired about the existing land use of the HSK NDA and the planned changes in future. He was also concerned about the improvement to the landscape and the comparison of the present project with the Northeast New Territories NDA. Another Member pointed out that as the area was fragmented, he suggested the project team to link up the water channels,

greenbelt areas and open spaces with green corridors, and green ‘bridges’. The project team could work with the Drainage Services Department which had experience working with consultants and local NGOs in rehabilitating concreted river channels and returning them to their natural form. Further consideration could also be given to provide farmland in the NDA, having regard to the growing demand of community farming as a leisure activity.

38. A Member said that the present PODP had failed to give details on how the HSK NDA project could develop towards building a people- oriented community, balancing living and working communities as well as fostering future developments and economic growth as envisioned. She advised that habitat fragmentation was very damaging to ecological values of the NDA, and the proposed solution of buffer planting of local species might not improve the situation. The Member also pointed out that it was not clear as to how the proposed setback could protect the egretty as suggested. Another Member remarked that greenbelts were generally not properly managed as they were not under the jurisdiction of AFCD or the Leisure and Culture Services Department. These lands were prone to be affected by invasive plant species and/or dumping of construction waste. He echoed the Member’s concerns on the sustainability of the egretty given the planned developments in the surrounding area, and would watch out for further details on the mitigation measures when the environmental impact assessment report was completed. Another Member followed that more details on the spatial distribution of the greenbelts, extent of agricultural land and the concept of merging farmland with the urban area were required.

39. The Chairman summed up that Members expressed concerns that the vision of the HSK NDA project was not clear enough, and that they would like to have more innovative planning in the aspects of ecology, conservation and nature-human interface etc. Mr Alan Macdonald replied that the NDA project was a mega development plan where not all the details had been shown in the PODP. Views/comments raised by Members at the meeting would be considered and incorporated wherever practicable in the next planning stage. He assured Members that their team had experience in conducting surveys on ecology and other aspects of the environment in identifying different resources on the site, and would integrate the findings in the plan as far as practicable. There should be a balance between environmental concerns and various development objectives like residential developments and transport infrastructure.

40. Mr P K Lee said that much of the area within the HSK NDA, especially the area to the north of Castle Peak Road, was already much disturbed by various industrial, port pack-up/OS uses. The plan was to make the NDA a better environment for living and work. Under the PODP, the proposed Special Industries would be located to the northwestern portion of the NDA. This would eliminate the existing industrial/residential interface problems and avoid producing adverse environmental impacts on adjacent developments, including the nearby villages. The district cooling system would be reviewed in the next stage. A detailed air ventilation assessment would be conducted when preparing the RODP. He also pointed out that according to the survey, the areas around the egret in San Sang San Tsuen were currently mainly for factory and OS uses. They would further study how to protect the birds' flight path from the egret to the foraging ground.

41. A Member suggested that the following information should be provided in the next planning stage –

- (a) the extent that the infrastructure was sustainable in terms of resources, energy and ecology;
- (b) the extent that the plan would respond to climate change, in terms of resilience and adaption to climate change; and
- (c) the extent that the social and environmental aspects were taken into account in bringing improvement to the livability of the new town.

42. The Chairman thanked the project team for the presentation, and invited them to provide the information to address Members' concerns at the next round of consultation.

Item 5: Any other business

Briefing session by the ACE

43. The Chairman informed Members that the briefing session on the role and functions of ACE would be held on 18 January 2014 (Saturday) at the Auditorium, Civil Service Training and Development Institute, North Point Government Offices from 10 am to 12 noon. The Chairmen of the three Subcommittees under ACE would be invited to introduce their work at the briefing. The Chairman advised that a Member had kindly agreed to be the moderator at the briefing session. The Secretariat would issue invitations later in the month. He invited Members to reserve their dairies and join the briefing on 18 January 2014.

[Post-meeting notes: Invitations were issued to 72 stakeholder groups on 19 December 2013.]

Item 6 : Date of next meeting

44. The Chairman informed Members that the next meeting was scheduled on 6 January 2014. Members would be informed of the agenda in due course. He took the opportunity in extending an early greeting to Members for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year in 2014.

[Post-meeting notes: The meeting was cancelled. Members will be advised on the next meeting in due course.]

**ACE Secretariat
December 2013**