

**Confirmed Minutes of the 205<sup>th</sup> Meeting of  
the Advisory Council on the Environment  
held on 11 May 2015 at 2:30 pm**

**Present:**

Prof Paul LAM, SBS, JP (Chairman)  
Prof CHAU Kwai-cheong, BBS, JP (Deputy Chairman)  
Ir Cary CHAN  
Prof FUNG Tung  
Dr Billy HAU  
Dr HUNG Wing-tat, MH  
Dr Michael LAU  
Prof Albert LEE  
Ir Prof Irene LO  
Mr Anthony LOCK  
Ir MA Lee-tak, SBS  
Prof John NG  
Miss Yolanda NG, MH  
Prof Nora TAM, BBS, JP  
Dr Eric TSANG  
Ir Conrad WONG, BBS, JP  
Prof Jonathan WONG, MH, JP  
Mr Luther WONG  
Ms Pansy YAU  
Mr Andrew LAI (Secretary)

**Absent with Apologies:**

Dr Carrie WILLIS, SBS, JP  
Mr Stanley WONG, SBS, JP

**In Attendance:**

Ms Anissa WONG, JP	Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection
Dr SO Ping-man	Assistant Director (Conservation), Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD)
Mr Wilson CHAN	Assistant Director of Planning / Technical Services, Planning Department (PlanD)

Ms Esther LI	Principal Information Officer, Environmental Protection Department (EPD)
Miss Evelyn LEUNG	Chief Executive Officer (CBD), EPD
Ms Joanne CHIN	Executive Officer (CBD), EPD
Ms Daicie TONG	Executive Manager (CBD), EPD

**In Attendance for Item 3:**

Mr Vincent LIU	Deputy Secretary for the Environment, Environment Bureau (ENB)
Mr Donald NG	Principal Assistant Secretary for the Environment (Electricity Reviews), ENB
Mr Martin MA	Senior Treasury Accountant (Financial Monitoring)1

**In Attendance for Item 4:**

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

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The Chairman informed Members that apologies had been received from Dr Carrie Willis and Mr Stanley Wong for not able to attend the meeting due to prior engagement.

**Item 1 : Confirmation of the draft minutes of the 204<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 9 March 2015**

2. The draft minutes were confirmed subject to the proposed amendments by a Member in para. 18 of the draft regarding the decline in the population of Chinese White Dolphins and observation on the spawning and fisheries grounds in Hong Kong waters.

**Item 2: Matters arising**

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

**Item 3 : Public Consultation on the Future Development of the Electricity Market**

*(ACE Paper 5/2015)*

4. The Chairman said that the paper covered the public consultation on the future development of the electricity market and improvements to the regulatory framework. The discussion would be divided into the open Presentation and Question-and-Answer Sessions while the Internal Discussion Session would remain closed. There was no declaration of interest from Members.

*[The presentation team joined the meeting at this juncture.]*

**Presentation and Question-and-Answer Sessions (Open Session)**

5. Mr Donald Ng briefed Members on the public consultation on the future development of the electricity market, which covered key issues including review of the current electricity market in Hong Kong viz. the prevailing energy policy objectives of safety, reliability, affordability and environmental performance, performance of electricity supply against these objectives, overseas experiences in introducing market competition, market readiness to introduce competition after expiry of the current Scheme of Control Agreements (SCAs), possible regulatory arrangements and approaches, and the future fuel mix for electricity generation. The consultation would last until 30 June 2015. Members were invited to share their views on the subject.

6. A Member opined that the Government could focus on taking forward the emission reduction targets for major air pollutants in 2020 on two fronts viz. strengthening the demand side management on electricity consumption in the commercial sector and further increasing the proportion of natural gas to over 50% in the fuel mix for electricity generation. The Member said that the commercial sector accounted for more than half of electricity consumption in Hong Kong. Reducing the demand of this sector should be the most effective way to contain/reduce electricity consumption and thereby achieve the emission reduction targets. He considered it not pragmatic to rely on the two privately-owned power companies, i.e. the CLP Power Hong Kong Limited (CLP) and The Hongkong Electric Company Limited (HKE) to take measures to drive down the electricity demand as it went against their commercial interest to do so. The Member suggested the Government to consider the feasibility of engaging an independent party to take forward the demand side management initiatives with resources being

apportioned from the returns of the two power companies.

7. Mr Vincent Liu replied that increasing the proportion of natural gas in the future fuel mix from the current 20% to 50% in 2020 would call for the construction of new gas-fired units and use of more natural gas by the power companies. He said that CLP was conducting an environmental impact assessment study on building new gas-fired generation units at Black Point Power Station. The findings would be submitted to the Government for consideration upon completion of the study. Further, CLP would also explore the feasibility of maintaining the current import of 80% of nuclear energy from the Daya Bay Nuclear Power Station (Daya Bay) after 2018. Regarding demand side management, Mr Liu acknowledged the importance of energy saving in buildings as the built environment accounted for 90% of electricity consumption in Hong Kong. He advised that the Government would soon announce its energy saving plan for the coming decade and beyond, encompassing educational and social campaigns to promote community-wide participation in energy saving.

8. Mr Donald Ng supplemented that a multi-pronged approach had been adopted to promote energy saving, e.g. the Government taking the lead in adopting energy saving measures in government buildings and public housing, launching of various Energy Saving Charters in collaboration with the commercial sector, green groups, non-governmental organizations and local communities, and providing incentives to the two power companies under the SCAs to encourage them to help promote energy saving. It was worth noting that after the 2013 Mid-term Review of the SCAs, the two power companies had set up energy saving funds using the incentive payments received under the SCAs for promoting energy saving to further promote energy efficiency in buildings. The current consultation also sought views from the public on how the power companies could do more in this regard.

9. A Member appreciated that the Government had imposed emission reduction targets and worked to improve efficiency in energy production through regulating the performance of the two power companies under the SCAs. He reiterated that the Government could consider setting up an independent party to strengthen the demand side management on electricity consumption and promote energy saving initiatives in the community. The Member also asked for more information on how the fuel mix could help achieve the air pollutant emission reduction targets for 2020.

10. On the community-wide energy saving campaigns particularly for the commercial sector, a Member asked about the progress of combating light pollution and the Government's plan to cooperate with the tourism sector on energy saving. Mr Vincent Liu replied that the Task Force on External Lighting (Task Force) had reviewed the matter and submitted a report to the Government in April this year. The Task Force reckoned that in view of the diverse views received on the ways in tackling light pollution, it was not appropriate to go for regulatory measures on external lighting at this juncture but to use charter schemes to encourage relevant parties such as owners of signboards to switch off lighting/advertisement signs after a preset time on a voluntary basis. Mr Liu advised that the Task Force would report its findings to ACE at the next meeting in June. He assured Members that the Government would involve the tourism sector in the related charter scheme and energy saving programmes.

11. In response to a Member's comment that the current consultation could focus more on how the future regulatory framework and the permitted rate of return (RoR) regime could encourage the two power companies to promote energy saving, Mr Vincent Liu said that the Government would examine the relevant issues and negotiate with the power companies.

12. A Member recognized the public concern over the ensuing increase in electricity tariff as a result of switching to cleaner energy. As regards the proposed increase in the use of natural gas to 50% of the local fuel mix, she suggested the introduction of competition through the purchase of liquefied natural gas (LNG) in addition to importing natural gas from the Mainland, as LNG had a global supply market and could be supplied through more efficient storage networks. This might help drive down the cost of natural gas and hence a reduction in electricity tariff. A Member also suggested the Government to explore importing nuclear energy from the existing nuclear plants in the Pearl River Delta region in addition to that from Daya Bay. This might help reduce the tariff further as the cost of nuclear energy was only around one-third of that of natural gas. For the development of renewable energy (RE), she suggested the Government to employ more waste-to-energy technologies through the use of landfill gas, sludge treatment waste and organic waste. This would give the Government more bargaining power to negotiate with the two power companies for grid connection of distributed RE.

13. A Member reckoned that the Government should consider setting clear targets on RE adoption. He said that the commercial and industrial sectors had

encountered great difficulties involving technical and liability issues when discussing with the power companies on connection of their distributed RE to the grid. He suggested the Government to engage relevant stakeholders in promoting the wider application of RE in Hong Kong. Another Member enquired if maintaining the import of 80% nuclear energy from Daya Bay would have any impact on the Mainland.

14. Mr Vincent Liu responded by saying that the Government had considered enhancing the diversity of fuel mix in electricity generation and outlined in the consultation exercise conducted in March-June 2014 an option to import electricity from the Mainland grid, which would allow Hong Kong to tap into various energy sources including RE. Feedback and comments received showed that the community had reservation on this import option out of reliability concern. The preferred option by the general public was to increase local generation by natural gas. As regards sources of supply, besides importing from the Mainland, the power companies also imported natural gas from Australia and Qatar. CLP was also studying the feasibility of building a LNG floating storage & regasification unit and would submit their findings to the Government for consideration in due course. As regards the use of nuclear energy, there were diverse views received during the fuel mix consultation. He advised that the Government planned to continue importing nuclear energy from Daya Bay as at present, i.e. 80% of output of Daya Bay instead of 70% in previous years. The additional 10% share had been supplied to the Guangdong province. He said that the price of nuclear energy was relatively low when the contract was signed with Daya Bay in the 1990s but the price of the newly added import was much higher and there was no substantial price differential when compared with electricity generated from natural gas. On waste-to-energy, a number of facilities including the Sludge Treatment Facility at Tuen Mun would come into operation and be connected to the grid in the coming years. Mr Liu said that while the Government had an open mind on developing RE in Hong Kong, we must take into account the limitation including scarcity of resources and land for development, high costs of RE generation and intermittent nature of supply, which called for backup power supply and that would incur additional costs.

15. On the import of electricity from the Mainland grid, a Member said that the public was also concerned about the resultant “export” of pollution to our neighbouring areas apart from the reliability issue. He echoed the concern that the Government should engage the public in the deliberation on the need for and the future development of nuclear energy and RE in Hong Kong. He considered

it worth investing in the development of RE despite our geographical constraints in anticipation of technological advancement in the longer term. As opposed to the common view of introducing competition in the electricity market, the Member asked if there was room for collaboration between the two power companies so as to improve their overall bargaining power with fuel suppliers as well as to facilitate Government's regulation of their performance.

16. Mr Vincent Liu explained that there were concerns regarding RE connection to the grid, which included high insurance costs on the part of the RE owners, reliability of electricity supply on the power companies and the tariff implication on consumers. He said that the Government would discuss further with the power companies on ways to facilitate grid connection so as to promote the development of distributed RE.

17. A Member echoed that RE was the cleanest form of energy. He asked if the Government could adopt a target for RE, or else it could never take off ground. He also shared the view that the Government should focus its efforts on strengthening the demand side management in particular during the peak usage period, as that could help relieve the pressure of building new power generation units. This could be achieved by negotiations with the power companies and drawing from experiences of other countries on setting energy saving targets. Mr Vincent Liu replied that while the Government had been making substantial headway in energy saving, the two power companies would still need to build new generation units by 2020 to meet the relevant environmental targets. In response to the Member's question, Mr Liu said that it would not be appropriate to release the consultancy report on permitted RoR for the power companies as it might undermine Government's future negotiating position.

18. A Member shared Members' views that measures on energy saving and targets to be achieved must be clearly set out for the community as a whole to take the matter forward. He reckoned that Hong Kong should develop RE, albeit in a relatively slow and gradual process. As regards the review of the SCAs, the Member agreed that the Government could consider further lowering the companies' permitted RoR to 6%-8% and ask them to use some of the profits for developing RE. In response, Mr Vincent Liu said that the current targets on energy saving were in line with that set by the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC). As with other APEC economies, Hong Kong would strive to reduce energy intensity by at least 45% by 2035, with 2005 as the base year. He said that in respect of RE, the real challenge lied in soliciting the community's

acceptance of the tariff implications. As an illustration, it was estimated that developing the off-shore wind farm by the power company would have a tariff implication of around 3%-5%.

19. A Member said that the power companies should make reference to electricity consumption patterns of their customers and consider ways to shift their loads as necessary, thereby doing away the need of setting up additional generation units. He echoed that the Government should encourage the power companies to streamline the arrangement for grid connection to facilitate development of distributed RE, e.g. in the industrial estates. Mr Vincent Liu replied that the power companies were exploring with major businesses and institutions the feasibility of reducing electricity use at peak times. He said that the Government would conduct joint study with the companies on grid access arrangement for new players in the next regulatory period.

20. A Member remarked that as coal would still account for around 25% of the future fuel mix, the Government should explore ways to further reduce emissions in the light of technological advancement in coal-fired generation. Mr Vincent Liu said that as no new coal-fired units had been approved since 1997, the use of coal in electricity generation had peaked and would decrease when the old coal-fired plants gradually retire in the coming years. Further, the two power companies had been using low-emission coal for generating electricity as far as possible to contribute further to emission reduction.

21. In response to the Chairman's enquiry on the reliability of grid supply from the Mainland, i.e. the China Southern Power Grid, Mr Vincent Liu said that the Government had earlier commissioned a consultancy on the matter and confirmed the technical feasibility and reliability of importing electricity from the Mainland grid. In fact, Macau was importing 90% of its electricity from the same Mainland power grid. As regards the proposed offshore wind farm at Lamma Island, Mr Liu advised that HEC had withdrawn the project in 2013.

22. In conclusion, the Chairman highlighted Members' concerns on the displacement effect of importing electricity from the Mainland, which would export emissions to the Mainland and Members' views about incorporation in the new SCAs the grid access arrangement for new players, e.g. distributed RE players, and measures to promote the demand side management particularly for the commercial sector. It was also the consensus among Members that the prospective SCAs should strike a balance among reliability, affordability and

environmental protection. He reminded Members that the three-month consultation would last until 30 June 2015.

*[The presentation team left the meeting at this juncture.]*

### **Internal Discussion Session**

23. In response to a Member's enquiry about the shelving of the offshore wind farm project, Ms Anissa Wong said that the proposal involved substantial and long-term investment on the part of the power company. The development was subject to various considerations including tariff implications and environmental impacts. She understood that the power company was not ready to take forward the proposed project yet. She advised that HEC had also invested in solar energy in its power plant at Lamma Island as a RE supply, albeit not on a significant scale.

24. Ms Anissa Wong said that the Government had an open mind on the development of RE. Under the current SCAs signed in 2008, the permitted RoR was set at 11% for RE to encourage the development as compared with 9.99% for gas-fired and coal-fired energy. She advised that the permitted RoR was an area of review in the discussion of the future SCAs, and this would include the RoR on RE. Given the practical situations in Hong Kong, Ms Wong remarked that it was more practicable for Hong Kong to develop RE through waste-to-energy technologies. The Government was committed to making efficient use of landfill gas and adopting waste-to-energy technologies in the development of waste treatment facilities. She advised that the Government was also examining the viability of utilizing the anaerobic digesters at existing sewage treatment works with secondary treatment for food waste-sewage sludge co-digestion in converting food waste into energy. The Government had been discussing with the power companies on the grid access arrangement for RE generated from these sources.

25. A Member agreed that tapping energy from waste currently was the most viable form of RE in Hong Kong. Connection to the grid would pose the greatest challenge as the access costs could be substantial. He opined that the existing grid might have reached their carrying capacity. As planning of a new grid infrastructure might be required, the Government could take the opportunity to develop this additional grid and encourage new potential players such as those on distributed RE to enter into the electricity market.

26. A Member shared Members' views on the importance of introducing

competition in the electricity market. She supported opening up the power grid and increasing the share of RE by setting specific goals, say, 5%-10% in the fuel mix in the long run. Apart from promoting waste-to-energy, the Member also considered it necessary to diversify the source of RE. She remarked that having regard to the complexity of the issues involved, public forums should be arranged to explain to the public on the subject in greater details. This could help the Government gauge more meaningful feedback from the community on the subject.

27. A Member suggested applying an incentive/penalty scheme to strengthen the effectiveness in promoting energy conservation among users, especially among the high-end user groups. Another Member said that support of the Education Bureau should also be enlisted so as to encourage discussion on sustainable energy and energy conservation at schools as part of the liberal studies and to gauge views from the younger generation.

#### **Item 4 : Municipal Solid Waste Charging : Latest Development**

*(ACE Paper 6/2015)*

28. The Chairman informed Members that the discussion on the latest development on implementing quantity-based municipal solid waste (MSW) charging would again be divided into the open Presentation and Question-and-Answer Sessions while the Internal Discussion Session would remain closed. There was no declaration of interest from Members.

*[The presentation team joined the meeting at this juncture.]*

#### **Presentation and Question-and-Answer Sessions (Open Session)**

29. Mr Samson Lai briefed Members on the background of introducing MSW charging in Hong Kong and the recommendations made by the Council for Sustainable Development (SDC) in its report on the implementation framework of the MSW charging scheme upon completion of the second-stage public engagement in December 2014.

30. Citing the Taipei experience, a Member said that the waste reduction efforts in residential buildings could be significantly discounted if they were allowed to adopt a charging mechanism on the basis of “by volume by building” during the three-year transitional period. The building management would experience great difficulties to mobilize residents after the three-year period to

change over to the “by household by pre-paid bag” requirement as they already got accustomed to the “by volume by building” charging method. She was also concerned about the sustainability of the \$1 billion Recycling Fund in supporting the recycling industries as it was a one-off capital injection by the Government. In the case of Taipei, funding for the recycling industries was supported by the income generated from the producer responsibility schemes (PRSs) and the development/production of value-added recycled products to cover the costs of waste collection and treatment of the recyclables. The Member enquired about the viability of setting up a dedicated trust fund for supporting local waste recycling industries.

31. A Member expressed appreciation to EPD and related bureaux/departments on their efforts in pushing through various waste charging initiatives. He suggested the Government to tap on the heightened public awareness on waste management and expedite implementation of the charging scheme. He echoed that the Government should review the need of the transitional period as the public might then lose the impetus to reduce waste at source. The Member also suggested that experienced green groups should be engaged to run the Community Green Stations (CGSs) at district level.

32. Mr Samson Lai in reply confirmed that the first two CGS operators were appointed through open tender in accordance with standard Government procurement procedures, and green groups had been invited to join briefings on this new initiative at different stages. He said that a visit would be arranged for green groups to the Shatin CGS in June 2015 and they would be encouraged to participate in future tender exercises. On the transitional period lasting for a maximum of three years, Mr Lai explained that it was a considered recommendation of the SDC taking into account the feedback received from different stakeholders. The main concern was that some residential buildings would need more time than others to reach consensus among residents to iron out operational problems which were crucial for a smooth implementation of the charging scheme. He stressed that the Government attached great importance to public education and community involvement. Several briefings for specific trade groups had been conducted, and four “townhall” briefings would be convened in June 2015. Looking further ahead, stakeholders forums would be organized to provide a platform for continued engagement with the relevant stakeholders. Mr Lai said that the Government would review in one year after the implementation of the “by volume by building” charging mechanism and strive to expedite the implementation process.

33. On the financial arrangement of the PRSs, Mr Samson Lai explained that so far the Government's efforts on PRSs focused in plastic shopping bags, waste electric and electronic equipment (WEEE) as well as glass beverage bottles. For the latter two, a circular economy would be created for the relevant products and a recycling fee would be imposed to fully recover the costs incurred by the Government. He further explained that this financial arrangement was preferred since the Government would allocate the necessary public funding to kick start and operate the PRSs so that the schemes would not have to live on income from recycling fees which could fluctuate due to market conditions or other factors.

34. A Member commented that the Government should adopt a holistic perspective in devising a master plan on waste management which should link up the work of various bureaux/departments, recyclers and consumers. He also opined that there should be a phased implementation of the different charging initiatives with minimum time gaps in between. Another Member asked about the outcome of the pilot trials conducted in 2014 and the lessons learnt, e.g. operational issues faced by the building management and residents as well as the statistics of recyclable items collected and treated. A Member was concerned about the fly-tipping problems. She said that there was high expectation on the provision of recycling facilities at district level and also a clear way forward on food waste processing so as to sustain behavioural changes in the community. The Member further suggested that the Hong Kong Police Force could be involved in the Working Group to assist in enforcement matters.

35. Mr Samson Lai pointed out that as pledged under the *Hong Kong: Blueprint for Sustainable Use of Resources 2013-2022*, the Government would promote sustainable use of resources through social mobilization, infrastructure and policies/legislation. Given the experiences of Taipei and Seoul, MSW charging in Hong Kong would be an important step to give impetus to the society in kick-starting the waste reduction and recycling efforts. He envisaged that the progressive implementation of the charging scheme would drive social mobilization and encourage more investments in infrastructure for waste recycling, thus contributing to the momentum on sustainable waste management. Mr Lai had observed more stakeholders of different background attending recent briefing sessions which indicated their eagerness in participating in the engagement. Citing the positive response received on the implementation of the Construction Waste Disposal Charging Scheme in 2006 which effectively reduced construction waste by 30%-50% disposed at landfills, Mr Lai was optimistic that

waste reduction target by MSW charging was achievable and would be supported by the community.

36. As regards the release of the SDC report, Mr Samson Lai said that the Government had conveyed a strong message to the community that relevant bureau/departments would work closely to expedite the implementation of the charging scheme. Efforts on public education and community involvement would be strengthened by organizing stakeholders forums in the second half of 2015. On lessons learnt from the pilot trials, Mr Lai said that substantial efforts were devoted to stepping up publicity and public education during the trials. Even though the trials did not involve real charging in the absence of legal backing, the waste disposal statistics still indicated behavioural changes amongst the households and some improvements on both quality and quantity of recycled materials. New trials were being contemplated so as to allow more households to participate. Mr Lai stressed that, unlike the waste reduction measures in Taipei which had spread over the past decades, we had to take forward a number of waste management initiatives in Hong Kong such as waste charging, provision of infrastructural facilities, as well as recovery of WEEE and glass beverage bottles under the respective PRSs in a much compressed timeframe. Substantial improvements would be evident when these initiatives were rolled out progressively in the coming years.

37. For waste charging in single-block buildings, Mr Samson Lai said that waste from these buildings was usually collected through refuse collection points (RCPs). Residents (or garbage workers who collected waste from residents) had to use designated bags for disposal at the RCPs. While fly-tipping problems would not necessarily worsen due to waste charging, Mr Lai advised that the Government would consider rolling out new pilot trials for these buildings and welcome opportunities to collaborate with local stakeholders in the trials.

38. A Member reiterated her concern about the “by volume by building” option during the transitional period. She opined that the effectiveness of waste charging was dependent on the mode of the charging mechanism as evidenced in the different experience in Taipei and Taichung. She stressed that we should implement the “by household by pre-paid bag” charging despite that there could be some “noises” along the way. Another Member suggested the Government to devise suitable policies to provide adequate support and regulation to the operation of recycling industries and food waste handling in the local community.

39. The Chairman concluded that ACE was supportive of the quantity-based MSW charging. The Council was keen to see that the Government could seize the opportunity to implement the charging scheme as soon as practicable.

*[The presentation team left the meeting at this juncture.]*

### **Internal Discussion Session**

40. On Members' concerns about the proposed three-year transitional period, Ms Anissa Wong said that the Government had taken into account the recommendations of the SDC and feedback of stakeholders when developing the implementation framework of MSW charging. These SDC recommendations would be referred to when EPD prepared the enabling legislation for the charging scheme and planned the complementary measures to facilitate behavioural changes in support of waste management. While acknowledging the general views of green groups and commentators that demanding all residential buildings to use pre-paid designated bags in one-go at the start of the charging scheme would create the most direct incentive on waste reduction, Ms Wong said the issue of enforcement effectiveness should not be overlooked. Hong Kong was dominated by high-rise and multi-storey buildings, which meant that tracing of the sources of MSW disposed would be extremely difficult if not impossible. Experience of some European cities also showed that fake bags had adversely affected the effective implementation of MSW charging and even led the authorities to drop the use of pre-paid bags. Ms Wong said that waste charging "by volume by building" would be a more feasible starting point in Hong Kong, under which building management companies would be responsible to work with residents during the transitional period and prepare the transition to the "by household by pre-paid bag" charging. Further, the Government would engage the commercial and industrial sectors as well as the educational and community services institutions in getting these sectors prepared for MSW charging as well. She remarked that EPD would continue to strengthen recycling network, which would facilitate buy-in of the public to practise quantity-based MSW charging. Ms Wong was confident that the momentum on enhancing waste management would sustain and bring about behavioural changes in the community.

41. Ms Anissa Wong further said that there were merits for the current financial arrangement for the related complementary services of collection and processing of recyclables be funded independently and separately from the mandatory levies/charging under PRS. Citing the arrangement under the WEEE

PRS, the Government had decided to fund the capital and recurrent costs of a dedicated treatment facility at the EcoPark in advance of the implementation of the PRS on WEEE. This approach would better provide a stable and timely funding support independent from the incomes/charges from mandatory PRS, which could fluctuate for various reasons. Ms Wong thanked Members and green groups for their views which helped us take forward the waste management initiatives. The Government would strive to expedite the legislative process to bring the charging scheme into effect as soon as practicable.

42. A Member suggested that the Education Bureau should be included in the Working Group as public education was crucial to promote environmental awareness in the community. She said that RCPs should be retrofitted with recycling facilities as 17% of the waste so collected was recyclables. There should also be staff stationed in RCPs to oversee the operation. The Government should keep up the momentum and seek passage of the relevant legislation within the current LegCo term. The Member also echoed the need of the Government to map out a comprehensive strategy on food waste handling as there were concerns among the local stakeholders on whether they should set up their own processing facilities and how to handle food waste products.

#### **Item 4 : Any other business**

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

#### **Item 5 : Date of next meeting**

44. The next ACE meeting was scheduled on 8 June 2015 (Monday). Members would be advised on the agenda in due course.

**ACE Secretariat**  
**May 2015**