Confirmed Minutes of the 216th Meeting of the Advisory Council on the Environment (ACE) held on 5 September 2016 at 2:30 pm

Present:

Prof Paul LAM, SBS, JP (Chairman)
Ir Cary CHAN
Dr Billy HAU
Dr HUNG Wing-tat, MH
Dr Michael LAU
Prof Albert LEE
Ir Prof Irene LO
Ir MA Lee-tak, SBS
Prof John NG
Prof Nora TAM, BBS, JP
Dr Eric TSANG
Ir Conrad WONG, BBS, JP
Prof Jonathan WONG, MH, JP
Dr Carrie WILLIS, SBS, JP
Mr Stanley WONG, SBS, JP
Ms Pansy YAU
Mrs Alice CHEUNG, JP (Secretary)

Absent with Apologies:

Prof CHAU Kwai-cheong, BBS, JP (Deputy Chairman)
Prof FUNG Tung
Mr Anthony LOCK
Miss Yolanda NG, MH
Mr Luther WONG, JP

In Attendance:

Ms Anissa WONG, JP	Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection
Mr Wilson CHAN	Assistant Director of Planning / Technical Services, Planning Department (PlanD)
Mr Simon CHAN	Assistant Director (Conservation), Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD)
Mr K F TANG	Assistant Director (Environmental Assessment), Environmental Protection Department (EPD)
Miss Heidi LIU	Principal Information Officer, EPD

Ms Becky LAM	Chief Executive Officer (CBD), EPD
Miss Dora CHU	Executive Officer (CBD) 1, EPD
Miss Apple Leung	Executive Officer (CBD) 2, EPD
Mr Alan CHUNG	Executive Manager (CBD), EPD

In Attendance for Item 2:

Mr Dick CHOI	Senior Marine Conservation Officer (West), AFCD
Mr Lawrence NGO	Senior Environmental Protection Officer (Regional Assessment) 1

Project Proponent Team

Airport Authority Hong Kong	Mr Kevin Poole, Executive Director, Third Runway Mr Peter Lee, General Manager, Environment, Third Runway Mr Martin Putnam, Senior Manager, Environment, Third Runway Mr Lawrence Tsui, Senior Manager, Environment, Third Runway Mr James Tsui, General Manager, Corporate Communications Ms Mabel Quan, Manager, Project Liaison
Mott MacDonald Hong Kong Ltd	Mr Eric Ching, Divisional Director
Clymene Enterprises	Dr Thomas Jefferson, Dolphin Specialist Dr Bernd Würsig, Dolphin Specialist

In Attendance for Item 3:

Prof Nora TAM, BBS, JP	Chairlady, The Strategy Sub-committee
Prof Jonathan WONG, MH, JP	Convenor, Support Group on Promotion of Sustainable Use of Biological Resources
Dr Winnie LAW	Associate Director, Policy for Sustainability Lab of Faculty of Social Sciences, The University of Hong Kong (HKU)
Mr Darwin LEUNG	Senior Project Officer, Policy for Sustainability Lab of Faculty of Social Sciences, HKU
Mrs Philomena LEUNG	Principal Assistant Secretary (Sustainable Development),

	Environment Bureau (ENB)
Ms Neve LEUNG	Assistant Secretary (Sustainable Development) 2, ENB

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Action

The Chairman welcomed Mrs Alice Cheung, the new Secretary of the Advisory Council on the Environment to the meeting. He informed Members that apologies of absence had been received from Prof Chau Kwai-cheong, Prof Fung Tung, Mr Anthony Lock, Miss Yolanda Ng and Mr Luther Wong.

Item 1 : Matters arising

2. The minutes of the 215th meeting of 13 June 2016 was confirmed via circulation in July 2016. There was no matter arising from the minutes of the last meeting.

[A Member joined the meeting at this juncture.]

Item 2 : Expansion of Hong Kong International Airport into a Three-Runway System - Report on the Effectiveness of SkyPier Plan on Chinese White Dolphins
(ACE Paper 10/2016)

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

4. The Chairman recapped that the Marine Travel Routes and Management Plan for High Speed Ferries (HSF) of SkyPier (the SkyPier Plan) was a submission required under one of the conditions of the Environmental Permit (EP) for the project on "Expansion of the Hong Kong International Airport into a Three-Runway System" (3RS). In compliance with the EP condition, the SkyPier Plan had been submitted to ACE for comment prior to the submission to the DEP for approval, and ACE had requested the Airport Authority Hong Kong (AAHK) to report to the Council on the effectiveness of the mitigation measures on Chinese White Dolphins (CWDs) six months after the implementation of the SkyPier Plan. AAHK would also take the opportunity to update Members on the recent media concerns on the Coral Translocation Plan.

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

Action

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

5. At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr Peter Lee briefed Members on the latest progress of the 3RS. Mr Eric Ching recapped the background of the SkyPier Plan and provided an overview on the implementation progress, and then Dr Thomas Jefferson and Dr Bernd Würsig briefed Members on the monitoring data and effectiveness of the SkyPier Plan on the conservation of CWDs.

6. In response to the Chairman's enquiry concerning the monitoring data, Dr Bernd Würsig advised that the mapping of CWDs' distribution was filtered to include only CWD tracks with more than two positional fixes as recorded by land-based theodolite tracking in every 10 minutes. Limitations were that CWDs only surface to breathe once in a while and were underwater for 80% to 90% of the time, and it was difficult to tell apart individuals/groups of CWDs, unless the CWD(s) concerned had special marks/features which allowed easy identification via observation by binoculars.

7. A Member requested AAHK to clarify the meaning of "prevailing speed" as used in the Report on the Effectiveness of SkyPier Plan on Chinese White Dolphins (the Report), and to explain the method for tracking the speed of vessels other than HSFs. He further asked AAHK to clarify why the daily and annual average of HSF movements were capped at 125 and 99 respectively, when the actual daily HSF movements were between 25 and 31 only. The Member observed that very few CWDs were detected at the north of the speed control zone (SCZ), and enquired if there was a correlation between the speed of vessels and density of CWDs. He also requested AAHK to provide the number of CWD sightings recorded after the implementation of the SkyPier Plan, and whether such data could be compared with the figure collected before the implementation of the SCZ.

8. Mr Peter Lee explained that the "prevailing speed" referred to the average speed of HSFs within the SCZ. A Member opined that the term "prevailing speed" should not be adopted to avoid misunderstanding, and suggested AAHK to provide a better presentation of the speed of HSFs within the SCZ. Mr Lee agreed to review if the data could be presented in a better way. Regarding the determination of speed of vessels other than HSFs, Mr Lee explained that the position and speed of objects including CWDs and vessels could be detected and AAHK

determined by land-based theodolite tracking. Dr Bernd Würsig clarified that the position of vessels travelling in the vicinity of CWD groups could be identified via land-based theodolite tracking, and the speed of the vessels could be computed from their different positions over a certain period of time. Concerning the cap on HSF movements, Mr Lee advised that the daily movements of 25 to 31 only accounted for the operation of SkyPier HSFs to/from Macau and Zhuhai, while the cap on the annual daily average of 99 HSF movements included other ferries heading north to the Pearl River Delta (PRD). He reported that the maximum number of daily HSF movements was about 97 to 98 in the past few months and the cap of 125 movements was needed to allow operational flexibility especially for the peak demand.

9. A Member pointed out that at the meeting of the Environmental Impact Assessment Subcommittee (EIASC) in May 2016, Members raised that whether a ferry was speeding or not should be based on the instantaneous speed rather than the average speed. With only the "prevailing speeds" of diverted HSFs from April to July 2016 provided to ACE, the Member opined that AAHK should make available records of instantaneous speed to show more clearly the speed profiles of the HSFs travelling within the Speed Control Zone. Mr Peter Lee replied that vessel movements were monitored in real time by the Automatic Identification System (AIS), and ferry operators would be required to provide explanations for every incident involving the speed of HSFs exceeding 15 knots, even if such speeding persisted for less than one minute. Mr Lee mentioned that the relevant monitoring data had been presented in the monthly Environmental Monitoring and Audit reports since February 2016, and was made available for public inspection on the 3RS dedicated website.

10. A Member recalled that as reported by AAHK in the EIASC meeting in May 2016, there had been cases of instantaneous speed of HSFs exceeding 15 knots recorded in April 2016. She opined that such information with the follow-up and precautionary measures taken should also be included in the Report. Mr Peter Lee advised that amongst the data points collected for over 800 HSF monthly trips to/from Macau and Zhuhai, over 99% of the data points complied with the speed limit of 15 knots, and all the speed deviation cases were due to navigation safety reasons. Another Member suggested AAHK to incorporate information that was available in the presentation slides into the Report.

11. In reply to a Member's question concerning the routing of HSFs, Mr Peter Lee confirmed that there were no longer any HSFs from SkyPier taking the route

aligned to the north of the airport island. With the observation that many of the ferries travelled at around or even below 10 knots, the Member further enquired the reason for not setting the speed restriction at 10 knots which was deemed to be infeasible by AAHK in the earlier Council meetings. Mr Lee explained that the ferries would have to travel at a speed a few knots below the speed limit in order to comply with the speed limit, i.e. 6 to 7 knots on average if the speed limit was set at 10 knots, and there were safety concerns associated with ferries operating at such a low speed. Addressing the Member's observation that some HSFs were recorded to operate at 6 knots, Mr Eric Ching explained that the speed of HSFs might sometimes be deterred by the countercurrent.

12. Replying to a Member's questions concerning the correlation between the speed of vessels and density of CWDs, Dr Bernd Würsig advised that there was a potential trend observed for CWDs swimming at slower speeds when vessels within 500 metres travelled slower. Dr Würsig confirmed that while a total of 52 groups of CWDs had been sighted at Lung Kwu Chau after the implementation of the SkyPier Plan, the figure being shown in their presentation was filtered to include only the CWD tracks that met the criteria for further analysis, in which two or more dolphin tracks were recorded within 10-minute segments. Dr Würsig said given that an individual/group of CWDs could be sighted more than once and photo-identification of sighted individuals in theodolite survey was very difficult, it would not be possible to derive the actual number of CWDs sighted. He added that shore-based data were for the determination of behaviour rather than for providing information on the density or the numbers of CWD.

13. A Member said that the CWD monitoring data collected after the implementation of the SkyPier Plan, including the encounter rate and information on CWDs' behaviour, should be compared to the historical data collected by AFCD in order to assess the effectiveness of the SkyPier Plan. Dr Thomas Jefferson explained that it might not be meaningful to combine or compare sighting/encounter rates obtained by different survey teams as a number of factors, including the qualification of surveyors, type and speed of the vessels, and survey effort etc. might affect the data collected. As regards CWDs' behaviour, Dr Bernd Würsig said that there were no data on CWDs' behaviour collected by AFCD using land-based theodolite tracking before the implementation of the SkyPier Plan, and he mentioned that comparison of the data collected by different survey teams and/or from different theodolite tracking platforms should be avoided as far as possible, given that the determination of behavioural states was somewhat subjective and relied in part on investigators' interpretations. Dr Würsig

supplemented that he would try to compare CWDs' behaviour in wet and dry seasons when more data were obtained.

14. A Member expressed his concern that it was not meaningful to conduct monitoring if the data obtained did not allow comparison to reflect the effectiveness of the mitigation measures on CWDs. He suggested that a comparison between data collected before (e.g. by AFCD) and after the implementation of the SkyPier Plan be made. Another Member also pointed out that if such a comparison was not feasible, there was apparently no quantitative evidence to substantiate AAHK's concluding remarks in the Report that there were no obvious negative behavioural impacts on CWDs based on the current findings. Dr Thomas Jefferson clarified that the methodology adopted by the survey teams was the same as that of AFCD. He just wished to caution against conducting quantitative comparisons based on the data sets collected by different survey teams, as the results would tend to be unreliable due to the distinctive physical and acoustic characteristics of different vessels deployed by different survey teams and the varying ability of individual observers to detect CWDs.

15. A Member echoed that it was undesirable to assert that data obtained by different survey teams could not be compared due to the inter-team differences. If different vessels had been used was a concern, he suggested that the project team should hire the same vessel in which AFCD used before in the CWD monitoring. Another Member was of the view that inter-observer bias should not be highly significant. He agreed that it was important to standardize the survey instruments so as to control and minimize the influence of the variables on the survey results as far as possible.

16. Dr Thomas Jefferson explained that efforts had been devoted to minimize inter and intra-team differences by establishing standardized protocols and procedures, hiring some of the surveyors who had been involved in conducting AFCD surveys, providing periodic training to observers, and auditing the work of the observers to ensure that the same techniques were used. Nonetheless, Dr Jefferson said that while general comparisons could be carried out, quantitative comparisons would have to be conducted in a very precise manner especially when the sample size was small at this stage. In reply to a Member's enquiry on the inclusion of general data comparisons in the Report, Dr Jefferson said that the estimate on density and abundance of CWDs based on data obtained from vessel surveys were very similar to that from AFCD surveys. With the view that qualitative analysis was not convincing, the Member suggested the project team to

compare data from the same month in the previous years to see if there was a distinctive trend, and to include a note on possible scientific/experimental errors in the Report if deemed necessary.

17. Dr Thomas Jefferson responded in the affirmative to a Member's question on whether a baseline study had been conducted. While vessel survey data before and after the establishment of the SCZ were available for comparison, he mentioned that there were no comparable data for the same season from the land-based Lung Kwu Chau theodolite tracking survey station. As only 6 months of data from the CWD baseline monitoring period were obtained at this stage, comparison with the previous data was not possible. In reply to a Member's question on the period and methodology of conducting the baseline study, Dr Jefferson said that CWD monitoring conducted under the EIA study covered a period of over 12 months from 2012 to 2013, while this baseline study was for a period of 6 months from December 2015 to June 2016. Having considered the seasonal differences, he said that a proper comparison of the 6-month CWD baseline vessel survey data could be conducted when a full year of monitoring data were available. On top of the Member's request to AAHK for including the methodology and data of the CWD baseline survey in the Report, another Member opined that statistics and data obtained during the environmental impact assessment (EIA) study should also be included in the Report. A Member followed that AAHK should also address the issue concerning the statistical power of the survey in terms of the sample size, study design and validity of the results.

18. Regarding the behaviours of CWDs, Dr Bernd Würsig said that there were insufficient data to support in-depth analysis on the changes in CWD's behavioural pattern, especially when CWDs' behaviour varied greatly in different seasons and locations. In consideration of the statistical power, Dr Würsig said that quantitative analysis and comparisons supported by a greater sample size would be conducted when a full year of pre-construction monitoring data was available.

19. Regarding the monitoring of CWDs, a Member requested AAHK to provide the number of CWDs spotted by photo identification frequenting the areas around the Sha Chau and Lung Kwu Chau Marine Park (SCLWCMP). He opined that survey efforts should be strengthened if such statistics could not be obtained. For clarity, he suggested AAHK to graphically present the CWD data with the co-occurrence of HSFs. Given that land-based surveys were limited by a range of reliable visibility, the Member asked whether an additional survey station could be set up at the west of Lung Kwu Chau. He further enquired the reason for not

conducting sound navigation and ranging (SONAR) scan at the SCZ. Considering that there were more HSFs trips during the day than at night time, data obtained during the day could be compared to that at night to assess the impact of HSFs on CWDs. The Member stressed the importance of data comparison, and suggested AAHK to align their survey methodology with that of AFCD so as to enable systematic analysis and comparison of current data with historical data. Dr Thomas Jefferson agreed to take Members' comments into account for preparing future reports. He reiterated that AAHK adopted the same methodology as AFCD for vessel surveys, and considered that the influence of the variables on the survey results would be reduced when the sample size grew larger.

20. The Chairman summarized that Members had raised concern on the way of measuring and presenting the speed of HSFs and the lack of data comparisons when assessing the impact of HSFs on CWDs. AAHK should make better use of past data and also take steps to ensure that future data sets could be compared to the current data sets.

[A Member left the meeting at this juncture.]

21. At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr Eric Ching briefed Members on the formulation, implementation and monitoring programme of the Coral Translocation Plan with the aid of a PowerPoint presentation and video clips.

22. A Member observed that the coral colonies concerned were sparsely populated, and requested AAHK to confirm the number of coral colonies that would be directly affected by the 3RS. With only one-tenth of the affected coral colonies to be translocated, the Member further asked AAHK whether there were any alternative proposals to conserve the rest of the coral colonies. Mr Eric Ching replied that about 3,000 coral colonies along the northern seawall of the existing airport island, extending to around 6 km, would be directly affected by the 3RS, and the size and density of coral colonies at different areas of the seawall varied greatly. Mr Ching explained that coral colonies attached to large boulders of the sea wall could be easily damaged when being mechanically removed, and would have a very low survival rate after translocation. Therefore, only the coral colonies attached to movable boulders of less than 50 cm in diameter were considered suitable for translocation. He further advised that the coral colonies, mainly consisting of gorgonian corals, were common in the western waters of Hong Kong. He expected that the new seawall of 13 km would provide a similar habitat for the re-colonization of the coral colonies upon the completion of

construction of the 3RS. The Member suggested AAHK to present the abundance of coral colonies in terms of the coverage area or density rather than the number of colonies as the size of colonies might vary greatly. Mr Ching supplemented that the Coral Translocation Plan had included information on the size of coral colonies recorded at each survey station.

[A Member left the meeting at this juncture.]

23. Referring to the various media reports concerning the large discrepancies on coral coverage reported in the 3RS EIA Report and the baseline coral survey, a Member enquired about the differences in methodology and survey locations for the two studies. Mr Eric Ching advised that both studies used the same survey stations and the same methodology, i.e. transect survey. While the EIA study aimed to establish an overall ecological profile of the corals, the baseline coral survey focused on locations with coral coverage and locations where translocation of corals were possible. A Member opined that AAHK should clarify the overall coral coverage along the 100 m transect in each survey station recorded in the baseline coral survey and that in the 3RS EIA Report.

24. A Member pointed out that terrestrial species of conservation importance had to be mapped regardless of their size during the EIA study, and asked whether such a requirement applied to marine species. Mr Eric Ching clarified that the gorgonian corals were not species of conservation importance as the species was commonly found in the western waters of Hong Kong. Such species was neither included in the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) red list nor the database of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), and it was not one of the scheduled species under the Protection of Endangered Species of Animal and Plants Ordinance (Cap. 586).

25. A Member mentioned that there was no indication in the Coral Translocation Plan showing that the baseline coral survey focused only on locations with higher coral coverage. While understanding that the pipelines would not be constructed under water, he was concerned that work barges would create impact on the coral colonies during the construction phase. He pointed out that there were many species yet to be assessed for inclusion in the IUCN red list, and the CITES database mainly consisted of species involved in trade. Given that the species of the affected gorgonian corals was not yet identified, it would be undesirable to confirm that it was not a species of conservation concern. The Member shared that samples of the corals had been sent to some overseas experts a

few years ago, and they had advised that the gorgonian corals could be a new species. Mr Eric Ching agreed the presentation of information in the Coral Translocation Plan could be improved to avoid confusion. He advised that the temporary works area for submarine aviation fuel pipeline diversion at Sheung Sha Chau would be above the high-water mark. While there would be work barges anchored in the area, some anchors would be dropped to the shore area above the high-water mark and some would be dropped to the seabed away from the shoreline. Therefore, the corals identified at the sub-tidal zone of the shoreline at Sha Chau would not be affected.

26. With reference to the Technical Memorandum, a Member pointed out that mitigation measures should be proposed for all established coral communities irrespective of the species. He echoed another Member's view that as the species of the affected gorgonian corals was yet to be identified and it was possible that the gorgonian corals were endemic species. He suggested AAHK to verify the number of coral species present under the genus of gorgonian corals and send the samples to overseas experts for identification to the species level. Mr Eric Ching explained that other EIA studies had also identified the gorgonian corals to the genus level only and that particular type of gorgonian coral was commonly found in the western waters of Hong Kong. In reply to the Member's question concerning the rationale for selecting Yam Tsai Wan as the recipient site, Mr Ching explained that Yam Tsai Wan was close to the donor site and the water quality and water current were found suitable for the gorgonian corals. He mentioned that the existing gorgonian corals at Yam Tsai Wan being healthy indicated that Yam Tsai Wan was a desirable habitat for the species, and there was no committed or planned reclamation work in the vicinity of the area based on publicly available information.

27. In response to a Member's enquiry concerning the coral experts engaged by AAHK, Mr Eric Ching said that the coral specialist conducting coral surveys was a local expert with over 10 years of practical experience and had been involved in coral surveys and coral translocation in many previous EIA studies. Visual inspection was used to identify the coral species so as to avoid any damage to the coral colonies. Replying to the Member's comment that the species of coral could only be confirmed by performing a dissection, Mr Ching clarified that the gorgonian colonies were only identified to the genus level in the 3RS EIA Report. The Chairman remarked and Mr Ching agreed that the genus but not the species was common in the western waters of Hong Kong, and research was yet to be conducted on the different species under the gorgonian genus. In response to the

Member's enquiry on whether there would be any difference in the translocation requirement if the coral colonies were found to be an endemic species, Mr Simon Chan explained that the evaluation of the ecological importance of a species would depend on a suite of factors. Even for an endemic species, its local distribution, abundance and population status would have to be taken into account when assessing the ecological impact and the mitigation requirements.

28. A Member suggested AAHK to make reference to the Guidelines for Reintroductions and Other Conservation Translocations issued by IUCN, which specified that every conservation translocation should have clearly defined goals. He observed that there was no growth in length and diameter in the translocated gorgonian corals in Yam Tsai Wan in the past years. In reply to the Member's question regarding the most populated location of gorgonian corals in Hong Kong, Mr Eric Ching said that such information was not available as the data collected from different EIA studies had not been compared. He informed that a 15-month post-translocation monitoring would be conducted in order to assess the size and condition of the corals on a regular basis.

29. In view that the 3RS posed a more extensive impact on the coral colonies when compared with the other projects, a Member considered that the coral colonies should be identified to the species level. Given that the 3,000 affected coral colonies were spread on a large expanse of seawall, Mr Eric Ching said that the overall coral coverage assessed in the 3RS EIA study was in fact less than 1%. As the gorgonian genus was expected to re-colonize on the 13 km of new seawall upon the completion of the construction of 3RS, mitigation measures were considered to be unnecessary and coral translocation was conducted only as a precautionary measure as reflected in the 3RS EIA Report.

30. Considering that the reclamation works of various projects, including the Lantau Logistic Park, might be conducted in the vicinity of Yam Tsai Wan, a Member suggested that the Civil Engineering and Development Department (CEDD) should be consulted regarding the suitability of Yam Tsai Wan as the recipient site. Mr Eric Ching replied that there would not be reclamation works in the vicinity of Yam Tsai Wan according to publicly available information, but he agreed to consult CEDD for verification purpose.

31. A Member asked if the size of translocated corals was sufficient to support its sustainable growth at the recipient site, and whether there was any

contingency plan or remedial measures if colonization of the corals failed. She opined that all coral colonies that met the criteria for relocation, on top of those in the areas D6, D7 and D8 indicated in the Coral Translocation Plan, should be translocated to the recipient site. Apart from the feasibility of translocation, Mr Eric Ching said that the health condition of corals would also be considered. While about 300 gorgonian coral colonies were considered feasible to be translocated, arrangement would be made to translocate all colonies meeting the criteria as far as possible. Mr Ching added that as far as he was aware, the number of translocated colonies of some past successful translocation projects was less than 300.

32. Mr Kevin Poole thanked Members for their comments/suggestions and assured Members that AAHK was committed to devoting their efforts in the area of environmental conservation. The Chairman concluded by asking AAHK to take into account the comments/suggestions raised by Members, and remarked on the significance of reporting the progress to ACE to facilitate further review and improvements.

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

Internal Discussion Session

33. A Member recalled that AAHK had provided data on both instantaneous speed and average speed in the EIASC meeting in May 2016, showing that such data should be readily available for inspection. Another Member pointed out that as required by the SkyPier Plan, the speed of HSFs within the SCZ should be maintained at 15 knots or below at all times. A Member suggested that AAHK should provide statistics on the number of exceedance committed by HSFs.

34. The Chairman suggested and Members agreed to request AAHK to provide supplementary information as follows :

(i) provide further record of the speed of HSFs of SkyPier, including instantaneous speed, so as to reflect more details and show more clearly the speed profiles of the HSFs travelling within the Speed Control Zone; AAHK

(ii) provide a comparison of the CWD data collected after the implementation of the SkyPier Plan, with relevant data collected

beforehand, including those commissioned by other parties such as AFCD ;

(iii) provide an estimated abundance of dolphins in Northwest Lantau and the number of individuals using the water along the diverted route particularly within the Speed Control Zone;

(iv) consult the Development Bureau/CEDD on whether there are any reclamation projects currently planned at or near the proposed coral translocation recipient site in order to re-confirm the suitability of the location;

(v) explore the feasibility of increasing the number of coral colonies to be translocated through, for example, trial translocation of colonies growing on large boulders, with a view to enhancing the chance of a self-sustainable community in the new location(s);

(vi) explore additional recipient sites in addition to Yam Tsai Wan for the coral translocation; and

(vii) consider the feasibility and practicability of identifying the gorgonian coral to species level.

[Post meeting note: A finalized list of the requested supplementary information was sent to AAHK for follow-up action on 22 September 2016.]

Item 3 : Public Engagement on Promotion of Sustainable Consumption of Biological Resources
(ACE Paper 11/2016)

35. The Chairman informed that Prof Nora Tam and Prof Jonathan Wong would take part in the presentation of the agenda item on Public Engagement on Promotion of Sustainable Consumption of Biological Resources.

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

36. A Member declared that he was a member of the consulting team which had been commissioned to assist the Council for Sustainable Development (SDC) to implement the Public Engagement exercise. He further declared an indirect

interest in relation to his spouse who was one of the members of the presentation team.

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

37. Prof Nora Tam briefed Members on the importance of sustainable consumption of biological resources and the purpose of SDC conducting a territory-wide public engagement. The public engagement period had begun on 26 July 2016 and would last until 15 November 2016. Prof Tam invited Members to give their views on the issues set out in the Public Engagement document. They were also welcome to complete the questionnaire at the end of the document a copy of which was available on the website of SDC.

38. Prof Jonathan Wong said that the SDC would like to seek comments from ACE on measures and strategies that would encourage behavioural changes towards a more sustainable pattern. It was hoped that through the exercise, the public could better understand the principles of sustainable consumption as well as identify ways and means whereby the Government, the public sector and the private sector could take the lead in promoting more sustainable consumption of biological resources. He invited ACE to help promote this concept and offer any views on this, so as to assist the Support Group and SDC in devising recommendations for the Government in promoting sustainable development.

39. With the aid of a powerpoint presentation, Dr Winnie Law briefly introduced the categories of biological resources and its importance, gave an overview of current efforts in Hong Kong, and cited examples from other countries to illustrate the actions that could be taken to further promote sustainable consumption of biological resources.

40. A Member appreciated the effort of SDC in launching the public engagement exercise. However, in addition to encouraging voluntary commitments in the promotion of sustainable consumption of biological resources, he suggested that the Government should be more proactive by way of setting up an institution specifically designed to facilitate smart choices for consumers in choosing sustainable products. He considered that the Government was in a better capacity compared to NGOs in collecting the necessary data and information such as the trade figures of major imports of commodities for the study of consumer behaviour.

41. A Member doubted whether asking questions about consumer choices and purchasing patterns of individuals and organizations in the questionnaire could facilitate actions in promoting sustainable consumption. He suggested that the analysis of consumption patterns on a larger scale could be conducted by making reference to present trade statistics. This would be a more effective way to facilitate voluntary commitment. While he was pleased with the public engagement exercise in general, he was of the view that Government could step up efforts in the regulation of sustainable consumption of biological resources by legislation.

42. In reply to a Member's enquiry concerning government's action in addressing the issue of sustainable consumption by legislation, Prof Nora Tam said that the questionnaire had asked respondents' views on ways whereby the Government could take a leading role, such as extending the list of sustainable products to be purchased. While she agreed that the Government should take the lead in realizing sustainable consumption practices, SDC would like to collect views from individuals and organizations on the measures that should be taken, with a view to formulating more concrete recommendations on strategies to promote sustainable consumption.

43. A Member echoed another Member's comment with regard to the importance of policy formulation on the part of Government to realize the sustainable development goal. He cited his experience at the Alliance for Healthy Cities (AFHC) held in South Korea and observed that governments of the countries receiving the AFHC Awards for Healthy Cities had provided sufficient funding and support in the formulation of measures to promote sustainable consumption. While he acknowledged the professional knowledge and expertise of the Environment Bureau and Environmental Protection Department in formulating policies related to sustainable development, he emphasized the effective implementation of these policies would require collaborative efforts among policy bureaux and departments. For example, the campaign on School Waste Reduction that encouraged students to bring their own lunches and utensils would require support from the Education Bureau. He considered that education which shaped individual behaviour was an important aspect in the promotion of sustainable development that should be integrated into the government's long-term strategy planning.

Action

44. A Member agreed with Members' views that collaboration among government and stakeholders was needed on top of individual commitment. She expressed the need to raise public's awareness on eco-label, green label and carbon label in a holistic manner so as to accommodate different perspectives in understanding sustainable development. This could avoid confusion in the information the labels contained and give public better guidance.

45. A Member concurred with Members' views in general. In addition, he observed that the public was becoming more sustainability-conscious which resulted in the removal of endangered species such as shark fins from the food offerings of large hotel groups. He suggested that public education, in addition to government policy and initiatives such as taxation or legislation, was conducive to an integrated approach that was necessary in the promotion of sustainable consumption. He was pleased to note that over the years, the public had increasingly recognized the importance of food waste reduction and responsible consumption. He considered that airline companies were the largest contributors to food wastage in Hong Kong, with the justification for the compliance with food safety standards. Therefore, he suggested that if the Government or the SDC could advise airline companies to offer flight meals prepared from sustainable sources, this would not only be a huge publicity campaign for the companies themselves, but also an opportunity to educate consumers on the importance of responsible consumption and facilitate stakeholders' participation.

46. A Member mentioned that the difficulty in the promotion of sustainable purchasing lied in educating the public on the concept of sustainability and addressing their common misconceptions. For example, the Higher Education sector might be reluctant to commit to sustainable development through the adoption of sustainable purchasing, since doing so implied a substantial change in the procurement policy. As such, he advised the SDC to ask the public in the questionnaire for their drivers and reasons behind sustainable purchasing in order to better promote sustainable development.

47. A Member agreed with another Member on his observation that the food wastage produced by airline companies should be addressed by the Government. He suggested that there should be a breakthrough in Government's strategy planning and in addressing the problem of vicious cycle, in particular food waste in airline and school catering.

Action

48. A Member asked if there would be any follow up actions after the launch of this public engagement exercise. He enquired whether there would be any practical policy implementation that focused on areas such as airline food waste, and whether there would be sufficient funding and resources to ensure a successful implementation of the related policies.

49. In response to a Member's enquiry, Prof Nora Tam emphasized that education had always been a main focus of SDC in raising public awareness on the importance of sustainable consumption. She also took note of the views of Members on airline food waste. She stressed that the public engagement exercise aimed not only to enhance public awareness, but also that of the stakeholders like businesses and the public sector. SDC would gather feedback from the public and stakeholders with a view to reaching consensus among various stakeholders. SDC would then advise the Government on the priority areas, and integrate their perspective into the long-term planning of policy implementation.

50. The Chairman concluded that Members were in general supportive of this Public Engagement exercise and thanked Members for giving valuable advice on this agenda item.

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

Item 4 : Any other business

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

Item 5: Date of next meeting

52. The next ACE meeting was scheduled on 3 October 2016 (Monday). Members would be advised on the agenda in due course.

ACE Secretariat
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