

**Confirmed Minutes of the 228th Meeting
of the Advisory Council on the Environment (ACE)
held on 4 December 2017 at 2:30 pm**

Present:

Mr Stanley WONG, SBS, JP (Chairman)
Prof Nora TAM, BBS, JP (Deputy Chairman)
Dr Billy HAU
Dr HUNG Wing-tat, MH
Ms Julia LAU
Mr Andrew LEE
Prof Kenneth LEUNG
Ir Prof Irene LO, JP
Ir MA Lee-tak, SBS
Prof John NG
Dr Eric TSANG
Ir Conrad WONG, BBS, JP
Prof Jonathan WONG, MH, JP
Mr Luther WONG, JP
Mr Simon WONG, JP
Prof WONG Sze-chun, BBS, JP
Mrs Alice CHEUNG, JP (Secretary)

Absent with Apologies:

Ir Cary CHAN, JP
Prof LAU Chi-pang, JP
Dr Michael LAU
Prof Albert LEE
Mr Anthony LOCK
Ir Michelle TANG

In Attendance:

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

In Attendance for Item 3:

Mr Elvis AU, JP	Deputy Director of Environmental Protection (1), EPD
Mr Anthony FOK	Principal Environmental Protection Officer (Sewerage Infrastructure), EPD
Dr Ron YANG	Acting Principal Environmental Protection Officer (Water Policy and Science), EPD
Mr Henry CHAU	Assistant Director / Sewage Services, Drainage Services Department (DSD)
Mr KAN Hon-shing	Chief Engineer / Harbour Area Treatment Scheme, DSD
Mr Lawrence LEE	Senior Engineer / Harbour Area Treatment Scheme, DSD

Action

The Chairman welcomed Members to the meeting and informed that apologies of absence had been received from Ir Cary Chan, Prof Lau Chi-pang, Dr Michael Lau, Prof Albert Lee, Mr Anthony Lock and Ir Michelle Tang.

Item 1 : Confirmation of the draft minutes of the 227th meeting held on 6 November 2017 (Closed-door session)

2. The draft minutes were confirmed without amendment.

3. With reference to para. 32 of the minutes of the last meeting, a Member repeated her previous comment that as domestic food waste constituted a high proportion of municipal solid waste (MSW), it would be essential to enhance domestic food waste recycling. Bearing in mind Phases One and Two of the Organic Resources Recovery Centre (ORRC) would primarily treat food waste generated from the commercial and industrial (C&I) sectors, she opined that the Government should provide proper channels and appropriate measures for recycling domestic food waste. This would be conducive to the Government's policy objective for introducing MSW charging which was to create financial incentives to achieve waste reduction and recycling at source.

4. Mr Donald Tong explained that the commissioning of an ORRC involved long and detailed planning processes including environmental impact assessment study, town planning and public engagement. Making reference to overseas experience, the Government considered it appropriate to first accord priority to

treating food waste generated from the C&I sectors. Phases One and Two of the ORRC which were scheduled for commissioning in 2018 and 2021 respectively, would altogether provide a daily treatment capacity of 500 tonnes of food waste generated by the C&I sectors. The Government would commence the engineering feasibility and environmental impact assessment study for Phase Three of ORRC in 2018, with a view to commissioning the plant by 2024. When more phases of the ORRC came into operation, there would be additional capacity for recycling domestic food waste. Furthermore, the Government had just commissioned a pilot trial on the use of the anaerobic digesters at the Tai Po Sewage Treatment Works for co-digestion of sewage sludge and food waste with an aim to enhancing Hong Kong's overall food waste treatment capacity in the long run.

5. Mr Donald Tong further said that the Government had implemented a range of recycling facilities to complement MSW charging and would continue to explore establishment of new facilities with a view to enhancing the recycling and reduction of waste. To prepare for the implementation of MSW charging, resources were being put in place on promoting food waste reduction and setting up the Food Waste Recycling Group within the Environmental Protection Department (EPD). Apart from the above, the Government would continue to promote reduction and source separation of domestic waste through various means, such as support to residential estates and schools to undertake projects to promote waste reduction, food waste recovery and waste recycling in the community. He assured Members that the Government would adopt an open attitude to consider other possible arrangements and measures, continue discussion with the stakeholders concerned and consult ACE further in due course.

6. A Member shared the view of another Member that the issue of domestic food waste should be discussed at the Waste Management Subcommittee (WMSC). He considered that the implementation of MSW charging would induce behavioural changes for the public and the commercial establishments in reducing waste and therefore timely release of information about the Government's policy, plans and measures was important.

7. The Chairman said that Members' views and concerns on the handling of domestic food waste would be recorded in the minutes of meeting.

[Post meeting notes: EPD provided a written response to the Member with regard to food waste management in Hong Kong on 19 December 2017. The response was circulated to Members for information on 19 December 2017.]

Item 2 : Matters arising (Closed-door session)

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

Item 3 : Improving the water quality in Hong Kong

(ACE Papers 25/2017 and 26/2017)

9. The Chairman informed Members that the paper provided information on the water quality improvements in Hong Kong over the past 30 years, planned maintenance works proposed by the Drainage Services Department (DSD) at the main pumping station of the Stonecutters Island Sewage Treatment Works (SCISTW) under the Harbour Area Treatment Scheme (HATS) Stage 1 and initial proposals for further enhancing the quality of coastal waters of Victoria Harbour. The discussion would be divided into the Presentation cum Question-and-Answer Session and the Internal Discussion Session.

10. With the aid of a powerpoint, Mr Elvis Au and Mr Kan Hon-shing presented the above. Upon the invitation of the Chairman, a Member declared that he was engaged in a research contract with DSD to review the potential of all its facilities in promoting urban biodiversity. The research had no relation with the item to be discussed. A Member declared that his company was involved in a number of projects with DSD which had no relevancy to the item to be discussed. The Chairman agreed that the two Members could stay on and continue participating in the discussion.

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

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

Beach water quality

11. With reference to Figure 3 of ACE Paper 25/2017, a Member was concerned about the apparent deterioration in beach water quality as a certain percentage of gazetted beaches fell from the rank of “good” into “fair” between 2011 and 2016.

12. Mr Elvis Au explained that all gazetted beaches in Hong Kong had achieved the bacteriological Water Quality Objective (WQO) since 2010. He added that apart from the faecal polluting sources, the beach water quality was also influenced by a number of hydrometeorological factors such as the amount of precipitation and

number of bright sunshine hours, giving rise to natural fluctuations in the water quality. The results of data analysis showed that significantly lower rainfall and more bright sunshine in 2011 had led to better beach water quality as compared with 2016 which was an exceptionally wet year coupled with shorter sunny periods. Based on the preliminary data in 2017 bathing season, the number of gazetted beaches that ranked “good” had increased and full WQO compliance was achieved for the eighth consecutive year. Therefore, the phenomenon could be attributed to normal year-to-year fluctuations rather than any sign of deterioration of beach water quality.

13. In order to present a fuller picture of the beach water quality in the figure, a Member suggested EPD add information to explain that the amount of precipitation and number of bright sunshine hours would cause natural fluctuations in the beach water quality.

River water quality

14. A Member noted that the river water quality near Tolo Harbour and Sheung Shui watercourses had greatly improved over the years as they were graded “excellent” or “good”. However, the river water quality of Kam Tin River remained “bad” in 2016 and he suggested the Government step up pollution control efforts to reduce residual pollution loadings in the concerned areas.

15. Mr Elvis Au explained that while the river water quality in Sha Tin and Tai Po had greatly improved over the years owing to the Government’s efforts in constructing sewage treatment facilities and extending public sewer to villages in the catchment areas. However, the pollution loadings in Kam Tin River were affected by a number of factors, including runoff from unsewered village houses, expedient connections in the old districts as well as illegal discharges from livestock farms. Mr Au said that the Government would take enforcement actions and extend public sewer network to unsewered areas with a view to improving river water quality in the concerned areas.

Water Quality Objectives

16. While expressing support for the HATS, a Member suggested the Government review and update the WQOs as there were new contaminants of emerging concern. With reference to the use of *enterococci* in place of *E. coli* as an indicator of sea water quality in the United States and some European countries,

the Member considered the prevailing monitoring method used by the Government was outdated. He further suggested using DNA tests on the water quality to provide faster and more accurate results.

17. Mr Elvis Au said that two comprehensive reviews of the WQOs with reference to overseas experience had been conducted in recent years. He explained that the setting of the recreational water quality standard should take into account the influence of certain environmental factors such as climate and geography as well as the population susceptibility to suit the local circumstances. The review of WQOs (including the faecal indicator bacteria *E. coli* and the bacteriological standard) showed that the standards adopted by Hong Kong had been developed taking local specific conditions into full consideration and aligned in general with those of countries in the subtropical region, offering adequate protection of Hong Kong's aquatic environment and public health. The EPD had been keeping in view developments of various monitoring methods and would continue its efforts to improve the monitoring programme to stay in line with overseas prevailing practices. He also mentioned that the Government had been working on the refinement of nutrient WQOs instead of solely relying on a single parameter such as total inorganic nitrogen to help better prevent red tides and tackle other eutrophication problems caused by nutrient enrichment. To keep up with the global trend of supplementing chemical and physical measurements with biological and ecological data to better monitor the environmental capacity of coastal waters, the Government would undertake a study in early 2018 on the biological indicators.

Enhancing coastal water quality of Victoria Harbour

18. A Member suggested the Government improve coastal water quality of the Victoria Harbour to promote a water-friendly culture. Mr Elvis Au said that the consultancy study on further enhancing the quality of coastal water of the Victoria Harbour was commissioned to tackle near shore pollution and enhance the quality of the coastal waters. Pollution associated with polluted storm water was detected in 27 coastal locations and 10 priority areas were proposed for implementing dry weather flow interceptors (DWFIs) to minimize discharge of polluted water into the sea.

19. Mr Elvis Au said that while the consultancy study was still ongoing, the information of the study had been shared with relevant Government departments including DSD for follow-up actions. The Government had been making active efforts to identify sources of pollution such as drainage misconnections and would

make rectifications accordingly. The Government would consider the use of Geographical Information System (GIS) for reference.

20. With a view to preventing the re-occurrence of misconnection, a Member suggested DSD and relevant Government departments review existing work processes and consider developing a comprehensive information system to cover all drainage locations. Another Member said that patrolling and enforcement should be strengthened to tackle pollution problems arising from the misuse of storm drains by food establishments.

21. In response to a Member's question on the suitability of water quality along the shore for bathing purposes and other public recreational activities, Mr Elvis Au advised that while the levels of *E.coli* of the central harbour waters had significantly reduced over the years, samples collected indicated that the level of *E.coli* along the coastal shores remained highly fluctuating. Nonetheless, he indicated that the Government would continue to step up the enforcement efforts and take forward the necessary measures to improve the quality of the coastal waters to promote a water-friendly culture.

Maintenance of HATS Stage 1

The need for maintenance and replacement works

22. On the maintenance works of HATS Stage 1, a Member enquired if alternative options had been explored to minimize the volume of screened bypass flow into the Harbour or avoiding sewage bypass as far as practicable. Mr Kan Hon-shing replied that DSD had made reference to experience in overseas countries such as Canada, Australia and the United States in relation to the maintenance of their sewage treatment plants. While overseas experience indicated that the timeframe for screened sewage bypass would normally take a few weeks, the current proposal of the maintenance works requiring a two-week bypass was considered acceptable. He explained that compared to the normal maintenance works without an inter-connecting channel, the duration and scale of this planned screened sewage bypass would be much reduced and the stability and flexibility in the maintenance of HATS would be greatly increased.

23. A Member was supportive of the planned maintenance of HATS Stage 1 and suggested the Government enhance the material used in the penstocks with a view to increasing their durability and/or functionality. To facilitate future

maintenance works, he asked whether the temporary bulkhead could be turned into a permanent retractable structure.

24. Mr Henry Chau advised that expert advice had been obtained from the United Kingdom on the replacement material used for the penstocks with a view to enhancing their durability. With regard to the temporary bulkhead, he said that the prefabrication of the bulkhead could be considered when the need for maintenance arose again such that bypass period could be shortened. Given that this was the first time of maintenance upon the commissioning of the HATS system, the installation of a temporary bulkhead was considered necessary. A bypass period of two weeks on each occasion was proposed taking into account the necessary preparatory works and safety measures for workers, including testing of gases in confined spaces of the wet well.

25. A Member expressed support for the maintenance of the HATS Stage 1 and suggested DSD appraise the conditions of the penstocks to provide useful reference for maintenance of similar nature in future.

26. In response to questions from two Members about the maintenance need of the penstocks apart from Nos. 1 and 2 in Main Pumping Station No. 1 (MPS1), Mr Henry Chau said that there were seven penstocks in total. Given that penstocks Nos. 1 and 2 were located at the frontmost position of MPS1, necessary set-up arrangement had to be made before conveying MPS1 flows to MPS2 which called for the need of short-term bypass of screened sewage at the seven preliminary treatment works (PTWs). He advised that bypass arrangement would not be necessary for the maintenance and replacement of other penstocks.

27. A Member enquired and Mr Kan Hon-shing replied that the capacity of Main Pumping Station No. 2 (MPS2) was adequate for treating HATS Stage 1 flows during the dry season.

28. In reply to a Member's enquiry regarding the depth of seawall and submarine outfalls in the proposed maintenance works, Mr Kan Hon-shing advised that all outfalls were existing structures that had been in use before the commissioning of the HATS system. The submarine outfalls were buried in the seabed with multiple outlet risers on the diffuser to facilitate effective dilution and dispersion of the discharge. Unless the capacity of the submarine outfall was exceeded, the screened sewage would not be discharged through the seawall bypass.

29. Mr Elvis Au supplemented that special measures would be in place for minimizing the impact of the bypass discharge via the seawall outfall at Kwai Chung PTWs. A silt curtain would be erected below the sea level in order to direct sewage flows into deeper waters. He added that the high water velocity of around 1 m/s during typical winter months along the Rambler Channel could significantly dilute the screened sewage bypass by about 80 to 100 times within 500 m from the point of discharge by means of vertical and horizontal mixing.

30. On a Member's enquiry on the need for an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) study in respect of the maintenance works of HATS Stage 1, Mr Elvis Au clarified that the HATS Stage 1 construction including the installation of the two penstocks had commenced before the EIA Ordinance came into operation in 1998 and hence it was an exempted project. Nevertheless, the project proponent had assessed the potential environmental impacts associated with the scenario of a two-week screened sewage bypass in the EIA study conducted for HATS 2A in 2008 and the water quality impact results were found to be in compliance with the assessment standards adopted. For the maintenance works of HATS Stage 1, DSD had conducted a more comprehensive assessment on water quality impact taking into account a wider range of parameters to reflect the most updated information.

31. A Member requested and Mr Elvis Au agreed to provide a profile of *E. coli* within 1 km of the outfalls after the meeting. Mr Kan Hon-shing mentioned that the screened bypass flow at six out of seven PTWs would be discharged via existing submarine outfalls. With the high water velocity, the flows could be diluted very effectively and the *E. coli* count within 1 km of the outfalls was projected to range from 300 and 37,000 per 100 ml.

[Post meeting notes: The information was circulated to ACE Members for information on 4 January 2018.]

Water quality monitoring during bypass period

32. While the overall water quality of the Harbour had improved, a Member shared his on-site study and simulation results that the water quality at the Tsing Yi outfall had deteriorated. Given that the situation was likely to get worse during the proposed bypass episodes, he suggested the Government monitor closely the western waters of Hong Kong.

33. Mr Elvis Au explained that DSD had conducted a detailed modelling assessment on the water quality which took into account the pollution sources including Tsing Yi outfall and updated information on the water flow. It was confirmed that the water quality at all identified water sensitive receivers would be in general compliance with the respective assessment criteria. He added that the impacts would be short-termed and minor, and it would only take two to three days for the affected sites to resume to the normal condition after the two-week bypass episodes.

34. Apart from the common parameters for water quality assessment, a Member suggested that benthos should be included in the water quality monitoring and the Government devise a plan to monitor its abundance and condition in the Harbour after commissioning of HATS 2A. He mentioned that the biodiversity and biomass of benthos had increased after the implementation of the trawl ban and the Government should adopt measures to prevent the bypass flows from undermining such improvements. Mr Elvis Au said that EPD would take the Member's suggestion into consideration when vetting the method statements.

35. A Member enquired whether there were any extreme local peaks detected in the water quality modelling that would have detrimental impact on water sensitive receivers. She reminded that low levels of dissolved oxygen (DO) could lead to irreversible impacts on marine organisms even for short durations.

36. Mr Kan Hon-shing explained that as the fluctuations in water quality were rapid, it would be more appropriate to present the averages of the data. With reference to the results of water quality modelling, he advised that the DO level would not go below 4 mg/l during the bypass periods and the water quality at water sensitive receivers was predicted to resume normal within two days after each bypass. Besides, the bypass would be conducted outside the bathing season to minimize the negative impacts on human activities.

37. Noting that the water quality modelling conducted by independent consultant indicated that the two-week geometric mean (G-mean) of *E.coli* for Approach beach with bypass of 591 count per 100ml which was only slightly below the prescribed limit of 610, a Member suggested EPD closely monitor the water quality of Approach Beach and alert swimmers and implement contingency plans as and where necessary to safeguard public health. In response, Mr Kan Hon-shing said that they had taken note of the relatively higher level of *E.coli* at Approach Beach and would step up monitoring efforts by collecting water samples more

frequently and taking appropriate actions should the level of *E.coli* exceed 610.

Measures to control odour

38. Apart from the aeration of sewage to control the generation of odour during the implementation of maintenance works, a Member enquired on additional measures to minimize odour in sewage treatment. Mr Elvis Au said that DSD had implemented mitigation measures in reducing odour nuisance by the dosing of chemicals and other deodorizing agents. The Government would explore the use of new technology to more effectively oxidize organic pollutants which were a key source of odour nuisance. He added that the high water velocity would allow sewage to be diluted substantially, thereby reducing the odour. In addition, the nearest sensitive residential area was located 500 m away from the Kwai Chung outfall. This distance between the odour source and the sensitive user was considered adequate by making reference to the 200 m recommended buffer distance stipulated in the Hong Kong Planning Standards and Guidelines.

Publicity and early disclose of information

39. In reply to the Chairman's question on whether the real time statistics of water quality during the five bypass periods could be made available to the public, Mr Kan Hon-shing advised that the water quality of affected sites would be closely monitored during each bypass episode and agreed that the daily monitoring statistics could be published on the website of DSD for public information.

40. With reference to another Member's advice that real-time statistics of *E. coli* would not be available as it would typically take 48 hours for the result of *E. coli* in a water sample to be reported, a Member opined that such constraints should be explained clearly to the public and the media so that they could have a better comprehension of the water quality statistics.

41. Apart from putting up notices, a Member considered that the early release of information was important such that the public could be aware of the potential risks and avoid activities such as swimming and fishing at the affected areas. He further opined that on top of averages, peak values should also be published so as to provide a fuller picture of the water quality to the public. Another Member concurred and suggested apart from releasing the general information on the G-mean of *E. coli* levels, more detailed and updated information on water quality modelling/monitoring should be released to ease public concerns and for interested

stakeholders to assess the potential impacts arising from the screened sewage bypass on beach water quality.

42. Mr Henry Chau agreed to release early the information on the water quality and mentioned that schools and youth ambassadors could be one of the channels for publicity and information dissemination. Nevertheless, he advised against consuming seafood sourced from local coastal waters at all times. While the *E. coli* levels could meet the WQO standards, pollutants discharged from storm water outfalls could render fish stocks unsafe for human consumption.

43. A Member suggested that the notice to be put up at affected sites should include warnings regarding the dangers of consuming seafood sourced from local coastal waters especially during the bypass periods.

44. A Member appreciated the Government's continuous efforts in improving the water quality of Hong Kong. He agreed that it was important to enhance transparency in releasing the data on water quality to the public and to allow the public to gain access to useful information more directly. He suggested releasing the most updated information on beach water quality through mobile apps so that members of public could make better informed decisions on which beaches would be most suitable for swimming and for recreational purposes over the bypass periods. In response, Mr Elvis Au said that water quality of bathing beaches were regularly monitored and water samples were collected from each beach to provide information on beach water quality trends for the authority to decide whether a beach should be closed for swimming in case of sudden water quality deterioration. Such information would be released to the public on the Government website or via press releases, and would be updated regularly to enhance transparency.

Contingency plans

45. A Member suggested the Government devise contingency plans to handle the extreme scenario should the bypass lead to negative impacts greater than that forecasted by the water quality modelling.

46. Mr Henry Chau said that relevant Government departments had reviewed the potential impacts of the bypass on their facilities and detailed contingency plans had been devised by the inter-departmental working group led by EPD. The water quality would be closely monitored and necessary action would be taken should any exceedance of the prescribed levels as stipulated in the contingency plans be

detected. For instance, the disinfectant dosing at sea water intakes would be increased if the measured *E. coli* levels exceeded the prescribed levels; and if the DO level at fish culture zones dropped below the prescribed levels, the concerned mariculturists would be informed by Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) for mitigation measures such as to restore the DO levels by aeration.

47. Mr Kan Hon-shing added that EPD and DSD would maintain close liaison with relevant Government departments to ensure the minimization of negative impacts on all fronts. The water quality monitoring data would also be reviewed and if deemed necessary, mitigation measures would be proposed for the subsequent bypass arrangements.

48. In response to a Member about actions that would be implemented should the level of *E. coli* exceed the prescribed limit, Mr Elvis Au said that the inter-departmental working group would coordinate the implementation of contingency plans for each sensitive receiver site or even non-ecologically sensitive areas throughout each bypass period. For instance, Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) would put up suitable notices at beaches; AFCD and Water Supplies Department would also closely monitor the situation at fish rafts, marine parks and intakes under their respective purview and implement suitable contingency plans as necessary. Mr Au assured Members that the Government would obtain the data and review the experience as the maintenance works proceeded, with the aim to reducing the number of bypass episodes and their duration as far as practicable.

Conclusion

49. The Chairman appreciated the Government's continuous commitment in improving the water quality in Hong Kong over the years. He reiterated the importance in maintaining close monitoring of the water quality impacts associated with the proposed maintenance works and conducting a review after the first bypass episode before proceeding to the next one. He further invited EPD to keep Members be informed of the progress of the maintenance works of HATS Stage 1 in due course.

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

Internal Discussion Session (Closed-door session)

50. Mr Donald Tong thanked Members for recognising the improvements made and proposed measures to further enhance the water quality of the Victoria Harbour. When comparing the position in 2016 to that before HATS, the commissioning of HATS had resulted in marked water quality improvement in Victoria Harbour. Proper and planned maintenance was essential for the effective operation of HATS to sustain the water quality improvement achieved for the Victoria Harbour. Based on the overseas and local experiences, planned maintenance was essential and always preferred. The EPD and DSD would maintain close liaison with the relevant Government departments through each bypass period to ensure negative impacts on all fronts would be kept to the minimum. He added that the Government would adopt a prudent and responsible attitude on the use of public resources to sustain the water quality improvement in Hong Kong.

51. To alert the public, a Member opined that the Government should disclose in a timely manner information on beach water quality and put up prominent notices at relevant locations before commencement of the proposed maintenance works. Mr Donald Tong said that EPD would keep reviewing the works arrangement as the maintenance works proceed; and upon completion of the first bypass episode, the most up-to-date monitoring results would be released to the public as early as practicable.

52. A Member was of the view that the title of the paper and hence the agenda title did not fully reflect the scope of the issues discussed. The Chairman noted the comments and said that in spite of the title, Paper 25/2017 as well as the minutes of meeting would clearly reflect the areas covered.

53. The Chairman concluded that Members supported the planned maintenance works at the MPS1 of the SCISTW and suggested the Government proactively and timely disclose the monitoring information on water quality during the bypass periods to the public so that they could become more vigilant.

Item 4 : Any other business (Closed-door session)

54. A Member requested the Secretariat to provide information in relation to the recommendations made by the EIA Subcommittee on the EIA report of “Development of a Bathing Beach at Lung Mei, Tai Po” as well as further updates

Secretariat

in view that the species translocation in the Lung Mei Beach had commenced recently.

55. While CEDD was the project proponent for the project, a Member enquired if AFCD would supervise the translocation process to ensure that it would be conducted in an appropriate manner. Mr Simon Chan said that the AFCD would keep in view the translocation process and conduct site inspections as and when appropriate. Mr Donald Tong supplemented that the project was approved in accordance with the EIA process as set out under the EIAO, and an Environmental Permit (EP) was issued by the EPD to the project proponent. The information in relation to the EP issued was available on the EPD website. Mr Tong said that EPD, together with the other relevant authorities would enforce the EP through site inspections, review of environmental monitoring and audit reports, etc. to check whether the EP holders was in full compliance with the permit conditions.

[Post meeting notes: The recommendations made by the EIA Subcommittee on the EIA report of “Development of a Bathing Beach at Lung Mei, Tai Po” and an update on the species translocation in the Lung Mei Beach provided by CEDD were circulated to Members for information on 15 January 2018.]

Item 5 : Date of next meeting (Closed-door session)

56. The Chairman advised Members that there was no proposed item for discussion at the ACE meeting in January 2018 and hence the meeting scheduled on 8 January 2018 would be cancelled. The next ACE meeting was scheduled for 5 February 2018 (Monday) and Members would be advised on the agenda in due course.

57. The Chairman took the opportunity to extend an early greeting to Members for a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Green New Year in 2018.

ACE Secretariat
February 2018