

**Confirmed Minutes of the 233rd Meeting
of the Advisory Council on the Environment (ACE)
held on 5 November 2018 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
Dr Michael LAU
Prof Albert LEE
Prof Kenneth LEUNG, JP
Ir Prof Irene LO, JP
Ir MA Lee-tak, SBS
Prof John NG
Ir Michelle TANG
Dr Eric TSANG
Ir Conrad WONG, BBS, 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
Mr Andrew LEE
Mr Anthony LOCK
Prof Jonathan WONG, MH, JP

In Attendance:

Mr Donald TONG, JP	Permanent Secretary for the Environment/Director of Environmental Protection
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, Environmental Protection Department (EPD)
Ms Becky LAM	Chief Executive Officer (CBD), EPD
Miss Dora CHU	Executive Officer (CBD) 1, EPD
Miss Carman LEUNG	Executive Officer (CBD) 2, EPD

In Attendance for Item 1:

Mr K S WONG, GBS, JP	Secretary for the Environment (SEN)
Mr LEE Wing-ka, Patrick	Administrative Assistant to Secretary for the Environment

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, Mr Andrew Lee, Mr Anthony Lock and Prof Jonathan Wong.

Item 1 : Briefing by the Secretary for the Environment on 2018 Policy Address - Policy Initiatives of Environment Bureau: Environmental Protection (ACE Paper 13/2018)

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

2. The Chairman welcomed Mr K S Wong, Secretary for the Environment (SEN) to the meeting.

3. With the aid of a PowerPoint, Mr K S Wong highlighted the key policy initiatives in relation to environmental protection in the 2018 Policy Address. He also showed Members videos about the new measures for improving the air quality and latest proposed measures relating to municipal solid waste (MSW) charging. He assured Members that the Government was committed to implementing the environmental initiatives to improve the sustainability and liveability of Hong Kong.

4. A Member expressed his appreciation to the Environment Bureau (ENB) for playing an active role in protecting public health by taking forward various environmental initiatives to improve air and water quality and combat climate change.

5. A Member thanked ENB and Environmental Protection Department (EPD) for their efforts in taking forward various environmental initiatives and suggested producing a video to summarise the major achievements of Hong Kong in environmental protection in the past 10 years with a view to enhancing public awareness on the relevant environmental initiatives.

Improving air quality

6. A Member commended ENB for its commitment in taking forward various environmental initiatives of the 2018 Policy Address. He pointed out that diesel commercial vehicles (DCVs) were a major source of roadside air pollution that led to frequent exceedances in nitrogen oxides (NO_x) and respirable suspended particles (RSP) levels. As such, he considered that there was a need to expedite the retirement of the remaining pre-Euro IV DCVs under the incentive-cum-regulatory programme. While acknowledging that retrofitting existing old diesel bus models with emission reduction devices such as selective catalytic reduction (SCR) systems could be an effective means to reduce emissions, he suggested the Government explore the feasibility of using zero emission technology with reference to the experience of London, California and the Mainland. Regarding the review of the Pilot Green Transport Fund (PGTF), the Member opined that models available in the market were inadequate in meeting the stringent local operating requirements. Manufacturers should be appealed to adapt these models to properly cope with specific requirements and operational environment in Hong Kong.

7. A Member expressed support for the environmental initiatives under the 2018 Policy Address. Although some of the initiatives would inevitably increase the business costs, he considered that all sectors in the society should bear the responsibility to protect the environment. He observed that there were great challenges in encouraging the public to use new energy vehicles, especially when these vehicles were associated with significantly higher insurance premiums. Furthermore, he considered that there were inadequate charging facilities and possible incompatibilities across different brands owing to the lack of unified global standards in chargers.

8. Apart from roadside emissions, a Member pointed out that marine vessels running on diesel was also a major air pollution emission source and regulation

should be considered to control the emissions. She suggested the Government consider the use of cleaner power sources such as nuclear energy with a view of achieving zero emission.

9. With regard to the pilot “water taxi” service, a Member suggested introducing electric or hybrid water taxis to reduce the emissions of air pollutants. She also proposed phasing out existing diesel-driven ferries upon renewal of contracts and mandating replacement with electric ferries which were already commonly used in some of the Northern European countries.

10. Mr K S Wong said that various measures were adopted which included signing a Cooperation Agreement on Prevention and Control of Air Pollution from Vessels with the Ministry of Transport to collaborate on the control of marine emissions. In tandem with the setting up of a domestic emission control area (DECA) in the Pearl River Delta (PRD) region, the new regulation enacted under the Air Pollution Control Ordinance (APCO) required vessels within Hong Kong waters to be subject to the same control of fuel from 1 January 2019 onwards. Addressing the power plant emissions, he said that reductions were achieved through regulations and revamp of the fuel mix for power generation. By 2020, it was targeted that the share of coal in the fuel mix would drop from the current level of around 50% to 20%. He further advised that the Government had invited the Council for Sustainable Development (SDC) to conduct a public engagement exercise in 2019 to draw up a long-term decarbonisation strategy up to 2050.

Waste reduction and recycling

MSW charging

11. A Member strongly supported the implementation of MSW charging. While acknowledging that the scheme might be further refined as necessary, he considered that it should be implemented as early as possible given that the immense pressure on waste reception and disposal facilities which would soon reach their full capacities, and reviews could be conducted at a later stage to improve the scheme as it further developed. He proposed that the ACE should pass a written resolution to urge all parties to work together to facilitate the passage of the Waste Disposal (Charging for Municipal Solid Waste) (Amendment) Bill 2018 (the Amendment Bill) for the early implementation of MSW charging.

12. Given that recyclables would not be subject to MSW charges, a Member considered that the scheme would provide incentives for the commercial and industrial (C&I) sectors and members of the public to more actively practise waste separation and recycling at source. It was therefore important to provide adequate supporting facilities for the collection and handling of recyclables. He also suggested encouraging the deployment of waste compressors with a view to reducing the burden on landfills and at the same time lowering the MSW costs. Having said that, he agreed that these proposals should not be the prerequisites to or preconditions for the implementation of MSW charging.

13. A Member echoed that the implementation of MSW charging was anticipated to help drive behavioural and cultural changes given that more people would be motivated to lower MSW costs by practising waste separation and recycling at source more actively. She pointed out that currently there was scope to increase recyclables collection facilities, in particular for glass and batteries, and further opined with the agreement of another Member that the Government should consider providing further support for the collection and recycling of domestic food waste.

14. A Member added that it was important to raise public awareness and knowledge. He opined that the Government should provide further necessary assistance and support to the community in practising waste reduction and clean recycling.

15. A Member looked forward to the early implementation of MSW charging and was pleased to see that the modified proposal had already incorporated major suggestions and views expressed by different stakeholders, including the Committee. As the Chairperson of the Waste Management Subcommittee, she supported passing a written resolution to appeal to all parties to facilitate the timely passage of the Amendment Bill. She considered that the charging level of MSW charging was reasonable with necessary assistance provided to the needy, and aspired that the scheme could achieve the objectives of creating financial incentives for waste producers to avoid, recover and recycle waste. She supported the annual provision of the Government to be commensurate with the gross revenue generated from MSW charging during its initial stage of implementation, so as to achieve the effect of “dedicated-fund-for-dedicated use”, and suggested

that such an approach could be adopted in the plastic shopping bag (PSB) charging scheme. She also suggested that the Government should study the feasibility of allowing the use of PSBs as garbage bags given that the PSBs costing at least 50 cents each could serve the purpose of MSW charging. Regarding the implementation of a pilot scheme to assess the effectiveness of applying reverse vending machines (RVMs) in recycling plastic beverage containers, the Member expressed support and suggested that a mechanism should be built in to identify machines that nearly reached their maximum capacities to facilitate timely collection of recyclables. She further opined that publicity and education were important and suggested that the Government explore the network of Student Environmental Protection Ambassadors in universities and secondary schools and mobilise the retirees to help promote waste reduction and clean recycling.

16. As the collection and treatment of domestic food waste had yet to be developed, the Chairman expressed concern that the implementation of MSW charging might lead to certain behavioural changes, for example, more people choosing to dine outside and becoming more reluctant in taking home leftovers.

17. While expressing support for the implementation of MSW charging, a Member suggested that ENB liaise with the Housing Department on the design and operation of the existing temporary collection points for construction waste so as to prevent flytipping of MSW therein upon the implementation of MSW charging.

18. The Chairman shared that the Housing Authority discussed the 2019/20 Corporate Plan which included raising the awareness of public rental housing tenants on MSW charging as one of the key initiatives. The Housing Authority would also look into the design and operation of temporary collection points for construction waste at public rental housing estates.

19. A Member remarked that effective waste management being an integral part of a smart city could only be achieved with the support of smart citizens. It was therefore important to step up education and promotional efforts to enhance the public's understanding of waste reduction and recycling. She suggested using brief and interesting video clips to gauge the interest and engagement of the public in practising proper waste disposal.

20. A Member said that the industrial sector was strongly supportive of MSW charging and anticipated that the implementation of MSW charging would induce changes in certain business operations. Given that consumers would have incentives to choose products with eco-friendly and minimal packaging after the implementation of MSW charging, manufacturers and suppliers would be incentivised to cope with such changes. For further waste reduction, he observed that new energy vehicles including hybrid vehicles had been on the market for quite some time and many of the lithium-ion batteries were nearing the end of their life cycle, and considered that there was a need to formulate proposals for collection and recycling of these batteries. He also noted the recent trend of replacing air conditioners by oil-free chillers which made use of the latest technology in oil-free magnetic-levitation bearing type compressors. While the new technology would achieve energy savings, he asked the Government to address the issue regarding the disposal of aged air conditioners. As regards food waste, he suggested that premises such as housing estates and schools could be encouraged to recycle food waste into compost as an interim measure while the Government should continue to increase the end-of-pipe treatment capacity.

21. A Member suggested consulting the beverage industry on the practicability of building in a mechanism in RVMs such that the cash rebate would correspond to the size of the waste plastic beverage containers. The Government should also liaise with business establishments such as supermarkets and provide incentives as necessary to secure locations for the placement of RVMs. The Member mentioned that other cities implementing MSW charging had achieved a waste reduction of at least 20% and he believed that the implementation of the scheme in Hong Kong could help relieve the pressure on MSW reception and treatment facilities. He stressed the importance of making the public become aware that there was an environmental cost to every action that involved waste generation and disposal and remarked that the University of Hong Kong had since 2017 banned the sale of bottled water measuring one litre or less at shops, restaurants, offices and vending machines within campus.

22. A Member suggested collaborating with higher education institutions to conduct a study to assess the effectiveness of MSW charging in terms of behavioural changes, and factors that would lead to such behavioural changes. The results of the study would be useful to the formulation of similar policies.

23. A Member agreed with the comments and suggestions raised by other Members and appealed to all Members for utilising their networks to call upon support for MSW charging. She also suggested the Government prepare for a fallback plan in case the introduction of the Amendment Bill encountered any resistance.

24. Mr K S Wong thanked Members for their support and comments for the MSW charging. Whilst admitting that the introduction of MSW charging was a challenging task, he assured Members that the Government was committed to strengthening the support for collection and treatment of recyclables. Considering that Hong Kong had the highest per capita food waste disposal rate amongst developed economies in Asia, he stressed that apart from recycling, waste reduction at source was also important. Mr Wong said that ENB would liaise with the property management sector and the Housing Department to draw up relevant guidelines for the preparation of the full implementation of MSW charging.

25. Addressing a Member's suggestion regarding the use of PSBs as designated garbage bags, Mr K S Wong advised that arrangements would be made to invite supermarkets and convenience stores to sell the designated garbage bags in lieu of PSBs as a means to further promote re-use and waste reduction and achieve the effect of "one bag for dual purposes".

26. Mr K S Wong also advised that the Government would launch a pilot scheme to identify strategic locations for the placement of RVMs and assess the effectiveness of applying such machines in promoting the recovery of plastics beverage containers. Addressing a Member's concern on the possibility of counterfeit designated garbage bags, Mr Wong advised that all designated garbage bags would bear an anti-counterfeit label to deter forgery.

27. Mr K S Wong further advised that the Environment and Conservation Fund currently provided funding support for installation of food waste composters at suitable residential estates. He explained that outlets for compost in Hong Kong were relatively limited. There was also finite space for the production and storage of compost. Having regard to the local constraints, it was considered more appropriate for Hong Kong to go for a Waste-to-Energy strategy for the treatment of food waste in the long term. He advised that a trial scheme on food

waste/sewage sludge anaerobic co-digestion at the Tai Po Sewage Treatment Works would be launched to explore the co-digestion of sewage with food waste in suitable sewage treatment works.

28. Mr K S Wong agreed that public education and publicity should be given the top priority to enhance the community's understanding and support of waste charging scheme and waste reduction arrangements.

Product packaging

29. A Member made reference to the ban on plastic bags in Kenya and opined that more stringent measures were required to bring about significant effect on waste reduction. He suggested launching a pilot scheme where supermarkets were required to liaise with their suppliers to reduce the extent of plastic packaging of products. Subject to the effectiveness of the scheme, legislation could be considered to mandate plastic-free packaging.

30. A Member agreed that the packaging of many products were excessive and suggested the Government raise the environmental awareness of suppliers and retailers on simple packaging.

31. A Member added that the packaging for delivered items purchased online was particularly excessive and opined with the agreement of another Member that there was a need to formulate strategies to encourage online retailers and the logistics industry to practise simple packaging.

32. Apart from excessive packaging, the Chairman remarked that online shoppers often purchased too much owing to the ease of product return and refund. He considered that such consumption habits might contribute to unnecessary wastage.

33. Mr K S Wong said that the Government would liaise with the C&I sectors to formulate strategies to realise waste reduction at source and in parallel raise public awareness on simple packaging.

Producer Responsibility Schemes (PRSs)

34. A Member shared his recent experience of participating in a beach clean-up and observed that there were large amounts of microplastics in the sand which were difficult to be extracted and removed. He also mentioned that there was a study showing that biodegradable plastics would simply disintegrate into microplastics at a quicker speed and would pose an even greater threat to the marine ecology. Microplastics could be ingested by smaller species and remain in the food chain as these smaller species were consumed. With reference to product packaging in Japan, he suggested replacing plastic beverage containers with aluminium beverage containers which had a higher recycling value.

35. A Member appreciated that the Government had taken the lead in banning single-use plastics at its premises. He suggested promoting green lunch in schools to discourage the use of disposable food containers and cutlery and reduce the associated waste.

36. With reference to overseas experience, a Member suggested the Government consider introducing legislation to ban the use of disposable plastic tableware. He mentioned that there were more eco-friendly options available made of materials such as paper or bamboo.

37. A Member suggested the Government promote the use of water vending machines to encourage people to bring their own bottle instead of buying packaged drinks.

38. Noting that there had been a marked reduction in the number of PSBs disposed of at the landfills but no decrease in the quantity of imported PSBs since the launch of the PSB charging scheme, the Chairman agreed that there was a need to review the effectiveness of the PSB charging scheme in achieving the proposed objective of waste reduction.

39. Mr K S Wong advised that the Government would strengthen efforts in tackling the challenges posed by waste plastics. This included commencing a consultancy study on how to implement a PRS targeting plastic beverage and personal care product containers. While it would take time to establish pragmatic replacements for single-use plastics, the Government would consolidate its

experience in banning single-use plastics from its premises and formulate strategies to encourage the private sector to follow suit. A review on the operation of the PSB charging scheme would also be conducted to enhance its effectiveness in waste reduction. Besides, another study was in progress to learn about the potential negative impacts of microplastics contained in personal care and cosmetic products on Hong Kong and formulate appropriate proposals for controlling these products.

Nature and countryside conservation

40. Given that Robin's Nest would be designated as a country park, a Member opined that the Government should take the opportunity to review the management and maintenance plan for country parks with a view to reinforcing the measures to be carried out under the Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (BSAP) and enhancing nature conservation. Making reference to the design of country parks in Norway and Scotland, he further suggested increasing the recreational value and tourist appeal of country parks through incorporating local characteristics in their design and providing ancillary facilities such as toilets, shelters and bridges. He shared that a "More than High-rise: Exploring Hong Kong through Architecture" exhibition was organised by the Hong Kong Institute of Architects in Tokyo recently which displayed remarkable works of young architects. He suggested inviting young architects to submit designs of small-scale infrastructure / architecture for installation in new and existing country parks.

41. Given that there were lesser-known endangered species such as the Golden Threadfin Bream and the Yellow Croaker which were commonly consumed by the local population, a Member considered that there was a need to step up education to enhance public knowledge on the endangered species, and establish a labelling system with the fisheries industry to classify sustainable seafood.

42. A Member was concerned that Government policies such as the Land Sharing Pilot Scheme might threaten the conservation of private farmlands with high ecological value. He suggested introducing a compensation mechanism which required developers applying to increase the development densities of their sites to provide corresponding areas of farmlands with high ecological value for conservation or to be designated as agricultural priority zones. He considered that this measure could help strike a balance between development and conservation

which was essential for sustainable development.

43. With reference to the pilot projects in Lai Chi Wo and Sha Lo Tung, a Member pointed out that the involvement of non-governmental organisations (NGOs) were necessary in the execution of revitalisation and conservation works. In order to extend such efforts to other countryside areas, he opined with the agreement of Mr K S Wong that there was a need to provide training for the development of talents in NGOs so as to increase manpower supply for supporting the relevant conservation works.

44. Mr K S Wong said that ENB would maintain close communication with AFCD to come up with appropriate design process and outcome for the new country park in Robin's Nest. He further advised that the Countryside Conservation Office (CCO) was tasked to promote sustainable development of remote countryside. He advised that the SDC had launched a public engagement on promotion of sustainable consumption of biological resources in 2016, and relevant guidelines had been drawn up to provide information on the sustainability of different biological resources including fisheries produce. He agreed that promotion could be strengthened to further enhance public understanding on this aspect and drive behavioural changes.

45. The development of sites under the Land Sharing Pilot Scheme was subject to the control of existing mechanisms under the Environmental Impact Assessment Ordinance and Town Planning Ordinance, etc. Mr K S Wong advised that the Government would explore whether it would be necessary to introduce further mechanisms to enhance the conservation of private farmlands with high ecological value.

External Lighting

46. A Member reflected that the problems caused by external lighting installations in the Yau Tsim Mong district were severe and some of the installations even emit sounds which became a source of noise pollution. She appealed to the Government to consider introducing legislation to regulate external lighting and the associated noise emission.

47. Mr K S Wong said that the Government had reorganised the Working

Group on the Promotion of the Charter on External Lighting into the Working Group on External Lighting (WGEL) in 2018 to review the effectiveness of the Charter on External Lighting and advise the Government on more measures to better manage external lighting. Having regard to the WGEL's review findings and recommendations, the Government would consider the way forward, including whether legislation should be introduced to control nuisance caused by external lighting.

Climate change and energy efficiency

48. A Member expressed appreciation that the Government had taken the lead in promoting green building and applying for Building Environment Assessment Method (BEAM) Plus certification for its buildings. In anticipation of the number of new development areas and new town extensions to be implemented, he suggested ENB collaborate with the Development Bureau to promote green buildings in the private sector with a view to enhancing energy efficiency, reducing carbon footprint, combating climate change and providing supporting facilities in line with Government policies such as MSW charging. He also commended the Government for actively applying green specifications in Government procurements and public works projects, and suggested encouraging the business sector and the public to adopt green procurement practices in parallel.

49. A Member found it encouraging to see that more premises were signed up for the Feed-in Tariff Scheme, and anticipated an increase in the number of New Territories Exempted Houses joining the Scheme given the relaxed height restriction from 1.5 metres (m) to 2.5 m for the installation of photovoltaic systems at the rooftop.

50. A Member suggested the Government encourage the construction industry to use more energy-efficient equipment or machineries. He also suggested the adoption of smart city concepts, such as providing real time information on the availability of parking space, with a view to improving efficiency and facilitating energy saving. Furthermore, he considered that there was a need to introduce legislation to mandate the disclosure of energy consumption data by property owners to facilitate benchmarking and making informed decisions on energy saving measures.

51. Mr K S Wong said that ENB had been collaborating with relevant Government departments to provide support and facilitation to individuals and organisations who/which wished to develop renewable energy, which included the installation of photovoltaic systems at the rooftop of New Territories Exempted Houses. Currently more than 700 applications for joining the Feed-in Tariff Scheme had been received by the two power companies. He further advised that the Steering Committee on Climate Change which was chaired by the Chief Secretary for Administration and comprised all 13 Policy Secretaries provided a platform for close communication and collaboration between different bureaux / departments (B/Ds) to promote green building and energy efficiency and reduce carbon emissions. He further advised that currently there were regulations to control emission standards of non-road mobile machineries (NRMMS) used in specified activities and locations including construction sites, container terminals and back up facilities, restricted areas of the airport, designated waste disposal facilities and specified processes. EPD would explore ways to improve the energy efficiency of the relevant industries. To drive the development of a smart city, he said that an inter-departmental Smart City Steering Committee chaired by the Chief Executive had been set up. Big data and real-time city data would be utilised to enhance operation efficiency, provide information and various services and enhance the liveability of Hong Kong.

Conclusion

52. The Chairman concluded that Members were in general supportive of the various environmental initiatives of the 2018 Policy Address. He thanked Mr K S Wong for his detailed explanations to address the concerns and questions raised by Members in the meeting.

[Mr K S Wong left the meeting at this juncture.]

Internal Discussion Session (Closed-door session)

53. In reply to a Member's enquiry regarding the expansion of the Sham Wan Restricted Area in the Lamma Island, Mr Simon Chan advised that this would be executed in accordance with the Wild Animals Protection Ordinance, Cap. 170.

54. With reference to the suggestion of a Member, the Chairman consulted Members on whether a written resolution should be passed to express support for all environmental initiatives of the 2018 Policy Address, including MSW charging. In view of the imminent implications to the waste treatment and reception facilities, the Member suggested and the meeting supported two resolutions be made, one on supporting early implementation of MSW charging, and one on other environmental initiatives in the 2018 Policy Address.

55. Members unanimously agreed that the resolution on MSW charging should urge all parties, including the Administration and the Legislative Council, to work together to facilitate the early passage of the MSW Amendment Bill. While acknowledging that there was room for improvement in waste reduction and recycling support, infrastructural facilities, and enforcement arrangements, etc., these should not be taken as prerequisites to the implementation of MSW charging. Noting that there were calls for the implementation of more measures to complement MSW charging, Members unanimously agreed that the early implementation of MSW charging could help relieve the pressure of MSW reception and treatment facilities.

56. Mr Donald Tong thanked Members for their support for the early implementation of MSW charging. Addressing calls for enhanced support measures to complement MSW charging, the Government had proposed the following policies/measures:

- (i) introducing for the first time a funding arrangement that would achieve the effect of “dedicated-fund-for-dedicated use” such that the revenue from MSW charging would be used to enhance the work relating to waste reduction and recycling;
- (ii) launching a pilot scheme for the provision of free collection service in respect of waste plastics from non-C&I sources at Kwun Tong, Tsuen Wan and the Eastern district and requiring the relevant contractors to turn the waste plastics into raw materials or products. Subject to the experiences gained from the pilot scheme, it was envisaged that territory-wide free collection service for waste plastics from non-C&I sources could be provided in due course;
- (iii) implementing a pilot scheme on the application of RVMs for plastic beverage containers, which would provide incentives for recycling of

these containers; and

- (iv) launching a pilot scheme to provide free collection service for food waste generated from the C&I sectors. Subject to the experiences gained from the pilot scheme and the progress of developing food waste recovery centres in Hong Kong, it was envisaged that free collection service could be provided territory-wide for food waste from all sectors. Given that the recycling of food waste would help reduce MSW charges, it was anticipated that there would be greater support from the local communities and District Councils for the development of Organic Resources Recovery Centres (ORRCs).

57. Mr Donald Tong further advised that top priority would be accorded to education through the outreaching teams under the EPD to promote waste reduction and recycling and provide on-site assistance to the public to practise waste separation at source and clean recycling. Subject to the effectiveness of publicity and education, the Government would review the manpower resources required for undertaking enforcement actions to improve compliance with the charging requirements.

[Post meeting note: The draft resolution was circulated to Members for consideration on 19 November 2018 and issued on 26 November 2018.]

Item 2 : Confirmation of the draft minutes of the 232nd meeting held on 8 October 2018 (Closed-door session)

58. The draft minutes were confirmed without amendment.

Item 3 : Matters arising (Closed-door session)

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

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

60. Considering that the current term of the ACE would end on 31 December 2018, a Member reminded EPD to brief and consult the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Subcommittee on the review of the technical assessments for the EIA process as soon as possible.

61. A Member recalled that the EIA Subcommittee had first requested for the review of the relevant Guidance Notes and guidelines at its meeting held two years ago.

62. A Member advised that the Subcommittee had requested EPD to provide updates on the progress quite a number of times, and Members were informed that the review was still in progress and it would take some time given the need to carry out in-depth study of past EIA experience and latest international practice.

63. Mrs Alice Cheung said that the subject team would be reminded to provide an update to Members regarding the progress of the review in due course. Secretariat

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

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

65. The Chairman advised Members that the next ACE meeting was scheduled for 3 December 2018 (Monday). Members would be advised on the agenda in due course.

ACE Secretariat
December 2018