

**Advisory Council on the Environment  
Nature Conservation Subcommittee**

**Minutes of the meeting held on 18 December 2006  
at 10:30 am in Conference Room, 33/F, Revenue Tower**

**Present:**

Prof. WONG Yuk-shan, B.B.S., J.P. (Chairman)

Prof. HO Kin-chung, B.B.S.

Prof. Paul LAM

Ms Gorette LAU

Dr NG Cho-nam, B.B.S.

Mr. Eric CHAN

Dr P M SO

Miss Florence CHAN (Secretary)

Mr. Claude WONG

**Absent with Apologies:**

Mr. Markus SHAW

Ms Iris TAM, J.P.

**In Attendance for Agenda Item 3:**

Mr. Edmond LAM      Executive Director (Hong Kong Wetland Park), AFCD

Miss Carrie MA      Wetland Park Manager (Education), AFCD

**In Attendance for Agenda Item 4:**

Mr. Patrick LAI      Senior Conservation Officer (Technical Services), AFCD

**In Attendance for Agenda Item 5:**

Mr. LEE Wai-hung      Wetland and Fauna Conservation Officer (Ornithology),  
AFCD

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The Chairman welcomed Members to the meeting of the Nature Conservation Subcommittee (Subcommittee).

**Agenda Item 1 : Confirmation on Minutes of the Last Meeting held on 13 June 2016**

2. The draft minutes were confirmed without amendment.

**Agenda Item 2 : Matters arising**

*Para 6 and 13: PR activities*

3. Miss Florence Chan reported that the Government was conducting a review on the Pilot Scheme for Management Agreement and the review would be completed in the first quarter of 2007. PR activities would be launched upon completion of the review.

*Para 24: Report*

4. Miss Florence Chan reported that the Secretariat was preparing a paper reporting the work of the Subcommittee in this term to the Advisory Council on the Environment (ACE).

**Agenda Item 3 : Hong Kong Wetland Park (HKWP) updates and Communication, Education and Public Awareness (CEPA) Programme in 2006/07 (NCSC Paper 8/06)**

5. The Chairman invited Mr. Edmond LAM and Miss Carrie MA to introduce the paper. The Chairman congratulated for the successful opening of the HKWP and thanked the staff for their hard work and contribution. Members shared his view.

6. Due to the large number of visitors, a Member was concerned about the sustainability of the HKWP from the planning and management point of view. A Member echoed with the Member and suggested that the Government should run HKWP using a business model. Another Member suggested establishing an independent management body to formulate plans for the park, including income generation. He also suggested the HKWP should promote ecological researches conducted by tertiary institutions.

7. The Chairman commented that the educational programme of HKWP was innovative. To handle the potential sustainability and manpower problem, he suggested that AFCD could consider organising a brainstorming session.

8. A Member appreciated the diversity of the education programmes, but he was worried if the staff was overloaded. He suggested that the HKWP should be more selective in organising programmes. Another Member said that government support to the HKWP could divert more resources to run massive education

programmes. He added that partnership programmes could alleviate the stress of manpower. A Member agreed with the Member that the management should monitor the level of activities and resources available.

9. As the land behind the HKWP was zoned as Comprehensive Development Area, a Member was concerned if the development would be compatible with the HKWP.

10. Mr. LAM thanked Members for their suggestions and responded that the management was aware of the staff's heavy workload and had implemented measures to tackle the problem. Firstly, additional resources would be sought from the Government to run the HKWP. Secondly, partnership programmes had trained people to assist the operation of the HKWP and to deliver conservation message. For example, partnership with schools was under planning to train student leader as interpreter. Thirdly, the HKWP gained experience through sharing with other wetland centres via international networking. The HKWP was also reviewing the possibility of out-sourcing the management of the park. In addition, volunteers and Civil Aid Service members also helped a lot. All these plans and measures helped alleviate the stress of staff. Mr. LAM said that the HKWP would continue to follow the strategic management plan, as agreed by the Wetland Advisory Committee.

11. The Chairman suggested that the Government should organise PR activities to disseminate the successful stories of HKWP. Mr. Eric CHAN responded that a world-renowned primatologist, Dr Jane Goodall, visited the HKWP in October and the media feedback was very positive. The Government would organise PR activities to arouse public awareness of wetland conservation when suitable opportunities arose.

**Agenda Item 4 : Fung Shui Woods in Hong Kong**  
(NCSC Paper 9/06)

12. The Chairman invited Mr. Patrick LAI to brief Members on the conservation of Fung Shui Woods (FSWs) in Hong Kong. A Member was amazed by the treasures of FSWs in Hong Kong and opined that the conservation and education work should be enhanced. He stressed the need to protect the six "best" sites. Another Member pointed out that FSWs were important because low land forests were not usually protected. In response to the Member's question, Mr. LAI said that AFCD had surveyed 115 representative FSWs, and the total number of FSWs in Hong Kong was estimated to be below 200. Some of the FSWs were located within country parks and some were

HKBWS

protected by statutory plans. Most of them were zoned as Conservation Area or other conservation zonings. In addition, FSWs on Government land were protected by the Forests and Countryside Ordinance. A Member emphasised that proper zoning was essential to protect FSWs from development pressures.

13. A Member enquired if FSWs could be categorised into different types. Mr. LAI answered that it might not be appropriate to use the absolute scores as cut off points to categorise FSWs. He added that, except a few disturbed sites, all FSWs were protected by various means. Another Member asked if this academic survey would be taken into account in making town plans, Mr. LAI said that the data had been passed to the Sustainability Development Unit.

**Agenda Item 5 : Conservation of Black-faced Spoonbill (*Platalea minor*) in Hong Kong (NCSC Paper 9/06)**

14. The Chairman invited Mr. LEE Wai-hung to introduce the paper on the conservation of Black-faced Spoonbill (BFS) in Hong Kong. A Member appreciated the effort of the Government and opined that the BFS conservation was successful. He said that the coordination of conservation work and public education of BFS was initiated in Hong Kong. The Chairman pointed out that the percentage of growth in the number of BFS in Hong Kong in the past two decades was higher than that of the world. A Member asked if there were potential protecting sites for BFS other than the Ramsar Site. Mr. LEE replied that BFS mainly inhabited in *gei wai*, marsh ponds, inter-tidal mudflat and water channels. The Hong Kong Wetland Park was a new hotspot for bird species. AFCD would continue to monitor the new species colonisation.

15. A Member said that the major threat of BFS was water pollution and was concerned about the water quality near the inner Deep Bay. With reference to Table 2 in the paper, the Chairman asked why the counts in Ramsar Site, Hong Kong were much larger than that in Futian, Shenzhen. Mr. LEE explained that the survey was conducted as a joint counting. Dr P M SO added that the smaller size of the Futian wetland could also be a factor. A Member opined that the increase in the population of BFS in Hong Kong could be due to better conservation or increase in the number of counting exercises. Mr. LEE agreed and said that part of the increase in population might be due to new counting exercises carried out in the coastal China in recent years.

**Agenda Item 6 : Any Other Business**

16. Mr. Eric CHAN informed the Members that the new term of ACE and the Subcommittee would begin on 1 January 2007. He thanked Members for their valuable advice and contribution to the Subcommittee in the past two years.

17. The meeting concluded at 12:30 pm.

**Nature Conservation Subcommittee Secretariat  
February 2007**