

**AIR QUALITY OBJECTIVES (AQO) REVIEW WORKING GROUP
AIR SCIENCE AND HEALTH SUB-GROUP**

**Digest of the 3rd Meeting
held on 9 Dec 2016 at 3:00 p.m.
in Room 1523, East Wing, Central Government Offices, Tamar**

Present:

Ms. Christine LOH	Under Secretary for the Environment (Chairperson), Environment Bureau (ENB)
Mrs. Alice CHEUNG	Deputy Director of Environmental Protection (3) (Vice-chairperson), Environmental Protection Department (EPD)
Prof. Peter BRIMBLECOMBE	
Dr. Nicky LAM	
Prof. Alexis LAU	
Dr. Roland LEUNG	
Mr. Alfred LEE	
Mr. LOONG Tsz Wai	
Dr. MAN Chi Sum	
Dr. Loletta SO	
Prof. WANG Tao	
Prof. TIAN Lin Wei	
Mr. MOK Wai-chuen	Assistant Director of Environmental Protection (Air Policy), EPD
Mr. Terence TSANG	Principal Environmental Protection Officer (Air Science), EPD
Mr. Raymond LEE	Chief Assistant Secretary (Works) 3, DEVB
Mr. Peter CHUI	Chief Engineer / KLN1 (KLN), CEDD
Mr. Patrick WONG	Senior Town Planner (Strategic Planning 1)
Dr. Connie FUNG	Senior Medical & Health Officer (Env Health & Toxi), DoH

Absent with Apologies:

Ir LO Pak Cheong
Dr. Eunice MAK
Dr. NING Zhi
Dr. Steve YIM

In Attendance:

Dr. Kenneth LEUNG	Senior Environmental Protection Officer (Air Science) 4, EPD
Ms. Josephine HO	Acting Senior Environmental Protection Officer (Air Policy) 1, EPD
Mr. Roy TSANG	Environmental Protection Officer (Air Science) 42, EPD
Dr. Jackie NG	Assistant Environmental Protection Officer

Mr. Ping KONG	(Air Policy) 12, EPD Consultant's representative, AECOM Asia Co. Ltd.
Mr. Karl AN	Consultant's representative, AECOM Asia Co. Ltd.
Prof. Jimmy FUNG	Consultant's representative, HKUST
Prof. WONG Tze wai	Consultant's representative, CUHK

Opening Remarks

The Vice-Chairperson welcomed Members to the third meeting of the Air Science and Health (ASH) Sub-group. The Vice-chairperson also informed Members that the purpose of the meeting was to report the supplementary information on the Health and Economic Assessment Tool, introduce the approach of current AQO review proposed by Consultant and discuss on the establishment of two Task Forces under the ASH Sub-group.

Agenda Item 1 –Declaration of Interests

1. The Vice-Chairperson informed Members that Prof. Jimmy FUNG & Prof. TW WONG had already resigned from the Sub-group to avoid the potential conflict of interest. They would contribute to the AQO review process as the experts in the Consultant's team

Agenda Item 2 – Confirmation of Digest of the Second Meeting

2. The draft digest of the second meeting held on 19 Sep 2016 was confirmed.

Agenda Item 3 – Supplementary information for the health and economic impact assessment tool (AS&H Paper 4/2016)

3. In response to Members' comments raised at the last meeting, the Administration gave a brief presentation on the supplementary information on the methodologies provided in the AS&H Paper 4/2016.

4. Members noted that the contribution of SO₂ to the overall health impact was minimal and thus agreed to the Consultant's suggestion not to include SO₂ in the Health and Economic Impact Assessment (HEIA) for this AQO review.

5. Some of the Members raised the following comments on whether ozone should be considered in the HEIA:

- (a) inclusion of ozone was important as there was a strong association between ozone and hospitalization for respiratory diseases
- (b) the increase in ozone was much driven by the reduced NO₂ concentration ("NO_x titration" effect). The health benefit might be over-estimated if the effect exerted by ozone was not considered;
- (c) a holistic analysis included both short-term and long-term impact of the

air pollution was expected for AQO review.

6. The Administration welcomed Members' comments and suggested that more in-depth technical discussion to be handled through the Task Forces recommended to be formed under Agenda Item 5.

Agenda Item 4 –Introduction to the consultancy study of this AQO review

7. The Vice-chairperson introduced the Consultant, AECOM Asia Co. Ltd., employed by EPD for the AQO Review Study. The Administration invited Prof. Jimmy FUNG (the consultant's representative) to introduce the consultant's team and the approach of the consultancy study for this AQO review.

8. The Administration informed Members that the results of mid-term review with Guangdong province on the emission reduction targets for 2020 would be announced in the first quarter of 2017. The Administration would keep the Consultant and Members informed on the progress of the mid-term review.

9. The Administration also suggested that the Consultant should take the reduction of emission in the area outside Pearl River Delta Region into account in the air quality projection.

10. In response to a Member's query, the Administration advised the Consultant to study the report of "Hong Kong 2030+" and included the major proposals and planning projects which might have effect on the 2025 air quality projection calculation. The Consultant should also consider the uncertainties of the emission inventory in the calculation.

Agenda Item 5 –Setting up task forces on (i) emission reduction estimation; and (ii) air quality modelling and health & economic impact assessments

11. The Administration suggested that two Task Forces namely "Emission Reduction Estimation" and "Air Quality Modelling and Health & Economic Impact Assessment" to be formed to enable more focused and in-depth discussion on the technical issues such as the tools, approach and assessment methods for evaluating the scope of tightening the AQOs. Interested members of the sub-group were encouraged to participate in these two task forces.

12. Consents arrived at or recommendations by the Task Forces would be reported back to the ASH Sub-group for steer/endorsement.

13. Members agreed with the proposal and suggested the two Task Forces to be re-grouped as (1) Emission Reduction Estimation & Air Quality Modelling; (2) Health & Economic Impact Assessment.

Agenda Item 6 – Any other business

14. In response to a Member's concern, the Administration further explained that the PATH model had already taken into account local vehicle emissions and the implication of modelling in planning aspect. The Administration also appreciated the

Member's comments on the presentation in one of the topical papers of the "Hong Kong 2030+" and would take into consideration his view in the public consultation exercise.

15. A Member concerned that identification of VOC reduction measures were not covered in current AQO review. The Administration responded that the update of the progress would be reported in the coming working group meeting.

Agenda Item 7 – Date of the next meeting

16. The next meeting would be held on 20 February 2017 (Monday). The meeting was adjourned at 5:15 p.m.