

**Minutes of the Third Meeting of the Environment and  
Conservation Fund Research Projects Vetting Subcommittee  
held on 30 July 2013 at 10:30 a.m.  
in Room 2825, 28/F, Southorn Centre, Wanchai**

**Present**

Mr Kenneth CHAN	(Chairman)
Mr LAM Chiu-ying	
Prof Kenneth MY LEUNG	
Mr Barry MC KWONG	
Miss Jane HUI	
Mr Conrad PK LAM	Environment Bureau (ENB)
Dr YIP Yin	Agriculture, Fisheries & Conservation Department (AFCD)
Mr Patrick LIU	Environmental Protection Department (EPD)
Ms Anita SW TSUI	Secretary (EPD)
Ms Sharon TSAI	Assistant Secretary (EPD)

**Absent with Apologies**

Mr Luther LT WONG  
Prof Irene LO  
Dr Arthur PS LAU  
Dr SHUM Ho-cheung, Anderson  
Dr Daniel TSANG  
Mr Victor KWONG  
Mr Victor C LI

**Welcoming Remarks**

The Chairman welcomed all Members attending the meeting of the Environment and Conservation Fund (ECF) Research Projects Vetting Subcommittee (RPVSC).

**Agenda Item 1: Confirmation of Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

2. Draft minutes of the previous meeting were circulated on 26 June 2013, and no comment was received from Members. The draft minutes as

circulated were confirmed.

## **Agenda Item 2: Matters Arising**

### *ECF Project 33/2010 Integrated warning system for monitoring and prediction of dust storm events in Hong Kong [RPVSC Paper 10/2013-14]*

3. Ms Sharon TSAI reported that Members' views were sought on 5 July 2013 vide RPVSC paper 10/2013-14 on the proposed budget reallocation and project extension for ECF Project 33/2010. As Members had expressed different views and suggestions on the proposals, and since a decision on the variation requests would have implications on the way forward for the project, the case was brought up at the present meeting for further discussion. Ms Sharon TSAI said that the Hong Kong Observatory (HKO) had recently completed a review on the Progress Report (August 2012 to January 2013) for the project submitted by the Principal Investigator (PI). The Secretariat would like to take the opportunity to report on HKO's observations and the PI's response to Members for reference.

4. Note

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10. Note

11. After deliberations, the Chairman concluded that the meeting had reservations, at this stage, about acceding to the PI's variation requests. In addition, the meeting had serious doubts about the progress and achievements of the project. To facilitate RPVSC in considering the way forward for the project, the PI should be requested to provide a comprehensive scientific report on the project, which should set out the objectives and planned deliverables of the study as well as the methodology adopted, details of work done in taking forth the project including data obtained, tests and validation conducted, the scientific findings, etc., and an evaluation on how far the planned deliverables were achieved so far. The Secretariat should then follow up with the relevant departments to facilitate further consideration by RPVSC.

### **Agenda Item 3: Any Other Business**

12. Ms Anita TSUI reported that the Administration had obtained the approval of the Legislative Council's Finance Committee for injection of \$5,000 million into the ECF, so that investment returns generated from the injection could provide long term and sustained support for green actions initiated by the community. To tie in with the new budgetary management approach, the ECF Committee would discuss the budget allocations for respective funding schemes in 2013-14, and the broad principles of funding arrangements at this coming meeting scheduled for mid-August 2013. Pending the ECF Committee's decision, the vetting subcommittees would be tasked to work out the detailed arrangements and implementation plan for funding schemes under their purview. Members would be informed of the actions required in due course.

### **Agenda Item 4: Date of Next Meeting**

13. The next meeting was expected to be held around September / October 2013. Members would be informed of the details nearer the time.

14. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 11:15 a.m.

### **Secretariat, ECF Research Projects Vetting Sub-committee July 2013**

#### Note:

The paragraph will not be included in the version of notes to be uploaded to the webpage of ECF according to the standing practice of not disclosing the detailed reasons for supporting or rejecting an application. The ECF webpage contains a general disclaimer that "Reasons for supporting/rejecting an application had been made known to the project proponents concerned, and the public could ask the project proponents direct for such information".