

**Minutes of the Sixth Meeting of the Environment and Conservation Fund
Research Projects Vetting Subcommittee held on 7 January 2014
at 2:30 p.m. in Room 502, 5/F., Southorn Centre, Wanchai**

Present

Mr Kenneth CHAN	(Chairman)
Miss Jane HUI	
Mr Barry MC KWONG	
Mr Victor KWONG	
Dr Arthur PS LAU	
Prof Kenneth MY LEUNG	
Mr Victor C LI	
Prof Irene LO	
Dr SHUM Ho-cheung, Anderson	
Dr Daniel TSANG	
Mr Luther LT WONG	
Mr Conrad PK LAM	Environment Bureau
Dr YIP Yin	Agriculture, Fisheries & Conservation Department
Mr Patrick LIU	Environmental Protection Department (EPD)
Dr Samuel CHUI	EPD
Ms Anita SW TSUI	Secretary (EPD)
Ms Sharon TSAI	Assistant Secretary (EPD)

Absent with Apologies

Mr LAM Chiu-ying

Welcoming Remarks

The Chairman welcomed all Members, and in particular Dr Samuel CHUI, Principal Environmental Protection Officer (Community Relations) of the Environmental Protection Department (EPD), 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 to Members on 23 December 2013 and no comment was received. As no further comment was raised by Members, the minutes were confirmed.

Agenda Item 2: Matters Arising from Minutes of the Previous Meetings

Review and Updates of the Priority Research Themes

3. Ms Sharon TSAI said that at the previous RPVSC meeting, Members discussed the priority research themes for 2014-16. Members generally accepted the updating proposed by the Environment Bureau (ENB) and EPD with minor amendments, but would like to seek ENB's confirmation on whether the proposed amendments to the example on waste recycling were agreeable. The Secretariat had since followed up with ENB, which confirmed their intention to encourage studies on how Government support for waste recycling would be effective and successful, and that RPVSC's proposed amendments were agreeable. In the light of ENB's reply, the meeting endorsed the updated list of priority research themes for 2014-16.

Agenda Item 3: Applications Assessment Mechanism of the Research Projects Vetting Subcommittee
[RPVSC Paper 47/2013-2014]

4. Ms Sharon TSAI briefed Members about RPVSC Paper 47/2013-14 concerning the future applications assessment mechanism for the Environmental Research, Technology Demonstration and Conference Projects (RTDC) projects. She said that at the RPVSC meeting held on 27 September 2013, Members discussed the future applications assessment mechanism, the implementation details as well as budgetary management arrangements for the RTDC funding scheme based on the broad principles and framework agreed by the ECF Committee (ECFC). A summary of RPVSC's agreed arrangements was set out in paragraph 5 of RPVSC Paper 47/2013-14.

5. Ms Sharon TSAI reported that the ECF Secretariat had, subsequent to the meeting, passed the revised assessment mechanism of the various ECF funding schemes, including that for the RTDC funding scheme, to the Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC) for comments from the corruption-prevention angle. ICAC had provided some general views for consideration by all ECF funding schemes. For the RTDC funding scheme in particular, ICAC suggested that a marking scheme could be considered for adoption to enhance objectivity and consistency in the assessment process, whereas guidelines could be drawn up to assist all parties in assessing the applications. In addition, noting that successful applications might be fully or partially funded, the ICAC opined that detailed arrangements such as the criteria for grant of full or partial funding should be drawn up as far as practicable. Taking into account ICAC's views and suggestions, the ECF Secretariat had proposed relevant amendments and elaborations to the assessment arrangements previously agreed by RPVSC for Members' consideration. Ms Sharon TSAI said that subject to Members' views, the Secretariat would follow up to amend the Guide to Application and related documents for the RTDC funding scheme, and make arrangements to issue the first invitation for applications around March 2014, after the budget for 2014-15 was available.

6.*

7.*

8.*

9.*

10.*

11.*

12.*

13.*

14.*

15.*

17.*

[Post-meeting note:

Based on the meeting's decision set out in paragraph 18 above, the Secretariat had prepared a revised draft of Revised Arrangements for Assessment of Funding Applications for Environmental Research, Technology Demonstration and Conference Projects (Annex), which was circulated to Members for comments on 14 January 2014. No further suggestion for amendments was received from Members.]

Agenda Item 5: Any Other Business

ECF 04/2009 - Air quality in Hong Kong: A supersite program for real-time characterization of particulate matter (PM) in Hong Kong's air

19. Ms Sharon TSAI said that the project variations proposed by the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology for project ECF 04/2009 "Air quality in Hong Kong: A supersite program for real-time characterization of particulate matter (PM) in Hong Kong's air" were circulated to Members for consideration vide RPVSC paper 46/2013-14 on 23 December 2013. She would like to report on the views expressed by some Members on the variation request. Prof Irene LO and Dr Arthur LAU declared interest and withdrew from the meeting.

20. Note

21. Note

22. Note

23. Note

24. After deliberations, the meeting concluded that the requested budget variation for using the budget of \$100,000 for the approved item "workshop" to sponsor project team members and other stakeholders to attend an international conference held in Hong Kong should not be approved. The meeting considered that the project team should use the approved budget to organize the two originally

planned workshops.

Agenda Item 6: Date of Next Meeting

25. The next meeting would be held around February 2013. The Secretariat would inform Members of the details once available.

26. The meeting ended at 4:15 p.m.

**Secretariat, ECF Research Projects Vetting Sub-committee
January 2014**

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 and / or the performance and other matters related to a specific organization or person. 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".

* To avoid inhibiting the frankness and candour of discussions and advice given to the ECF, this paragraph will not be included in the version of notes to be uploaded to the webpage of ECF.