

**Confirmed Minutes of the Sixth Meeting of the
Environment and Conservation Fund Committee
held on 28 March 2008 at 9:30 a.m.**

Present

Prof. LUNG Ping-yee, David, S.B.S., J.P.	(Chairman)
The Hon CHOY So-yuk, J.P.	
Prof. CHU Lee-man	
Mr. Joseph LEE, B.B.S., J.P.	
Mr. MAN Mo-leung	
Ms NGAN Man-ling, Edith	
Prof. WONG Woon-chung, Jonathan	
Dr. CHIU Tak-lun, Michael	DDEP(1), EPD
Ms CHEUNG Miu-han, Betty	P(CR), EPD
Mr. YUNG Po-shu, Benjamin	PEO(CD)2, EDB
Mr. CHAN Ping-kwong, Richard	Sr Nature Conservation Officer, AFCD

Absent with Apologies

Prof. CHAN Chak-keung	
Ms LAU Wai-kuen, Goretti	
Mr. WONG Hon-wai, Francis	S(CR), EPD

In Attendance

Ms CHAN Suk-ha, Winifred	SEO(CR&E), EPD
--------------------------	----------------

In Attendance for Agenda Item 7

Mr. LEE Koon-yan, Alfred	AD(WM), EPD
Mr. TE Chi-wan	SAO(WMD), EPD
Mr. Angus HO	Greeners Action
Ms YIP Chui-man	Greeners Action

In Attendance for Agenda Items 8 & 9

Ms YIP Ho-man, Miranda	SEO(CR), EPD
------------------------	--------------



Opening Remarks:

The Chairman welcomed all Members to the sixth meeting.

Agenda Item 1: Confirmation on Minutes of the Meeting held on 15.1.2008

2. The draft minutes of the last meeting held on 15.1.2008 were sent to members on 4.3.2008. The meeting confirmed the draft minutes subject to the following amendments in paragraph 25 where the 2nd sentence be amended to read as follows –

In view of cooperation of CA and HKBWS, Ms Edith NGAN and Prof CHU Lee-man would welcome a revision of the budget to demonstrate economies of scale.

Agenda Item 2: Matters Arising

Para. 7 - 16 Enhanced Procedures on Vetting Funding Applications

3. Ms Winifred CHAN reported that two briefing sessions were arranged on 12 and 27 March in Sheung Wan Civic Centre and Ngau Chi Wan Civic Centre respectively to introduce the new categories of minor works projects and revised guidelines. Over 500 representatives from schools and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) attended the briefing sessions. (Post-meeting note: the information on the new categories of minor works projects and the revised guides to applications for various categories of projects were uploaded to the website of ECF on 1.4.2008.)

4. Ms Winifred CHAN reported that having consulted the availability of members in April, the brainstorming session would be scheduled for 26 April (Saturday) morning in the conference rooms of the EPD on Revenue Tower. The brainstorming session would be followed by a lunch gathering. The Secretary for

the Environment and the Director of Environmental Protection would also attend the brainstorming session. Some proposed revisions on funding guidelines e.g. funding on overseas expenses, souvenirs for various ceremonies and reduction of the final disbursement that had not been decided at the last meeting might be further discussed at the brainstorming session.

**Agenda Item 3: Financial Position of the ECF
(ECF Paper 48/2007-08)**

5. Ms Winifred CHAN briefed Members on the latest financial position of the ECF as summarized in the ECF Paper 48/2007-08. The paper summarized the number of applications and the amount of fund approved by the ECF Committee and various subcommittees from 2007 to 2008. As at 28.2.2008, the uncommitted fund balance was \$30.3 million. The Finance Committee approved \$1 billion injection into ECF.

**Agenda Item 4: Report of the Research Projects Vetting Subcommittee from April 2007 to March 2008
(ECF Paper 49/2007-08)**

6. Ms Winifred CHAN briefed Members on the work of the Research Projects Vetting Subcommittee (RPVSC) which was summarized in the ECF Paper 49/2007-08. During the reporting period from April 2007 to March 2008, the RPVSC vetted 18 applications the results of which were summarized below:

Projects approved	9
Projects rejected	5
Projects supported and recommended to the ECF Committee for consideration	2
Projects withdrawn	1
Projects to be further considered	1
<hr/>	
Total	18

The total amount of fund approved for the nine projects was \$2.06 million in which four projects were jointly funded by the Woo Wheelock Green Fund with a grant of \$570,960. The RPVSC also decided that if the application was of more than

\$250,000, the Secretariat would invite two external expert reviewers to assess the project proposal before its being considered by the RPSVSC. For projects receiving a grant over \$250,000, the Secretariat would invite one independent evaluation report on completion of the project.

7. A Member suggested that if the ECF Committee would have different views on projects recommended by the RPSVSC, the RPSVSC should be invited to re-consider the support worthiness of the recommended projects. The ECF Committee should not directly deal with the project proponents. Another Member opined that the transparency of processing the applications should be enhanced.

**Agenda Item 5: Report of the Waste Recovery Projects Vetting Subcommittee from 2007 to 2008
(ECF Paper 50/2007-08)**

8. Ms Winifred CHAN briefed Members on the work of the Waste Recovery Projects Vetting Subcommittee (WRPSVSC) which was summarized in the ECF Paper 50/2007-08. During the reporting period, the WRPSVSC vetted 8 applications of waste recovery (WR) projects and 62 applications of source separation of domestic waste (SSW) projects. The results were summarized as follows:

Projects approved	61
Projects rejected	8
Projects to be processed	1
Total	70

9. Ms Betty CHEUNG reported that the WRPSVSC had identified new directions for waste recovery projects including -

- (i) focusing on commercial and industrial sectors with significant increase in waste arising and proactively engaging District Councils or community groups to undertake relevant waste recovery projects; and
- (ii) encouraging the adaptation of successful overseas waste recovery models for local application.

10. The Chairman said that the new directions would be discussed in details at the brainstorming session in April.

Agenda Item 6: New Applications Recommended by the Research Projects Vetting Subcommittee

Project 11/2006 Ecological sustainability of vegetated steep soil cutslopes
(ECF Paper 52/2007-08)

11. A Member declared interest and left the meeting room as he is the principal investigator (PI) of the project. Ms Winifred CHAN briefed Members on the objectives of the proposal. The project was discussed at the meetings of the RPSVC on 17.9.2007 and then 25.2.2008 and was considered worthy of support. After several rounds of discussion between the PI and the Civil Engineering & Development Department (CEDD) on the study scope, CEDD finally confirmed no duplication of work, and the RPSVC recommended supporting the project with a sum of \$788,600.

12. After discussion, the Chairman concluded that the committee endorsed the recommendation by the RPSVC to support the project with a sum of \$788,600.

Project 02/2007 Easy identification of dinoflagellates: Phase I – Rapid Identification of Dinoflagellates With Protein/peptide Mass Fingerprints Obtained Using MALDI-TOF Mass spectrometry
(ECF Paper 53/2007-08)

13. The Member rejoined the meeting. Ms Winifred CHAN briefed Members on the objectives of the proposal. The project was discussed at the meeting of the RPSVC on 7.12.2007 and was considered worthy of support in principle. The revised proposal applying for \$384,000 was subsequently endorsed by the RPSVC by circulation.

14. In order to enhance the transparency, a Member suggested that the Secretariat should state the exact number of voting result for projects being endorsed by circulation. Another Member commented that UGC would normally support funding for research assistants (RA) instead of senior research assistants

(SRA) for research projects. A member opined that the justifications for a SRA for the project had already been examined by the RPVSC.

15. The Chairman concluded that the committee endorsed the recommendation by the RPVSC to support the project with a sum of \$384,000.

Agenda Item 7: Public Education Programme under the “Policy Framework for the Management of Municipal Solid Waste (2005-2014)” (ECF Paper 54/2007-08)

16. Mr. Alfred LEE briefly introduced the new application namely “Save Food Project” submitted by Greeners Action. The project was recommended by the Waste Management Subcommittee of the Advisory Council on the Environment. Two representatives of the project team were invited to present the proposal in details.

17. In response to the query by a Member regarding the duration of the project, the representative explained that the frequency of activities was decided after taking into account the experience from the “No Plastic Bags Day”. The restaurants operators might take time to adapt to the new approach of reduced price for a smaller dish particularly that food price had increased significantly in the past few months. Thus, the project team proposed to organise the event once per month for a period of nine months at the initial stage so as to attract more food outlets to participate. Another Member said that she had reservation on the effectiveness of the programme as no major fast food chains would take part in the programme whereas their food wastage were relatively sizable. The representative stated that they were confident that members of the public had positive response towards the proposed save food approach and major fast food chains would change their attitude eventually after the programme launched and raised public awareness on the issue of food waste.

18. A Member enquired if the programme would be expanded to cover hotels as large amount of food waste were generated after buffets and he asked about the guidelines of selecting 「有衣食大使」. The representative pointed out that the objective of the project was to promote saving food at daily life and hotels might be covered at a later stage. The selection and nomination of 「有衣食大使」

would be carried out within schools. The project team would discuss further with schools on the details after the project was approved.

19. Another Member opined that the project team might consider inviting the food outlets to distribute food coupon so as to encourage smaller dishes from customers. The operators might find it easier to adapt as they would not receive less money and the customers would return to the same food chains to enjoy the coupons. As such, the programme might also sustain for a longer period of time. The Chairman also suggested if the project team would expand the target participants group to include primary students and their parents. It would facilitate long term behavioral changes of the participants.

20. The two representatives left the meeting after the presentation and the discussion.

21. A Member said that she appreciated the idea of saving food but she did not agree to provide funding for the expenses on the publicity items in view of the small number of participating food outlets. She opined that territory-wide publicity programmes should be carried out by the Environmental Campaign Committee (ECC) or the EPD and major fast food chains would probably respond positively to Government-led programmes. Another Member agreed on this aspect. Mr. Benjamin YUNG however considered that some programmes driven by NGOs might generate better community support when compared to Government-led programmes. Two Members enquired whether ECF has the mission to provide funds to local organizations to build up their capacities in organizing territory-wide activities.

22. The Chairman said that members would discuss further at the brainstorming session how to draw a balance between (i) providing funding support to NGOs to implement environmental programmes and (ii) urging government departments to lead territory wide environmental campaigns.

23. After discussions, the Chairman concluded that the objective of the “Save Food Project” proposal was commendable and EPD should liaise with the project team to revise the proposal as follows –

- (a) The proposal should cover more food outlets particularly major fast food chains where food wastage was more prominent.
- (b) More in-depth activities that facilitated behavioral changes should be organised.
- (c) The proposal should demonstrate long-term sustainability as opposed to a one-off event.
- (d) The revised proposal from the project team would be further discussed at the next meeting.

**Agenda Item 8: Report of Environmental Education and Community Action
Projects Vetting Subcommittee from 2007 to 2008
(ECF Paper 51/2007-08)**

24. Ms Miranda YIP briefed Members on the work of the EE&CA Projects Vetting Subcommittee which was summarized in the ECF Paper 51/2007-08. Members noted that a total of 42 applications were processed by the EE&CA Projects Vetting Subcommittee during the reporting period. The results were summarized as follows:

Projects approved	17
Projects deferred	1
Projects rejected	16
Projects withdrawn	8
Total	42

Among the 17 approved projects, the EE&CA Projects Vetting Subcommittee had approved with the authority delegated from the ECC an application from TWGHs on the Green Roofing Pilot Project at TWGHs Chang Ming Tien College to welcome the Green Olympics with an approved sum of \$294,280.

25. In respect of the revised guide to application, the EE&CA Projects Vetting Subcommittee decided that –

- (i) the funding for recurrent maintenance costs of the approved minor works and equipment up to the initial two years upon installation/purchase would be subject to a cap of 10% of the total approved grant or actual expenditure, whichever was the less; and

- (ii) the funding for project coordinator(s)/assistant(s) of the approved minor works projects should be limited to the first year of implementing the approved minor works projects.

26. The EE&CA Projects Vetting Subcommittee also raised the following concerns for ECF Committee's clarification and consideration:

- (i) Whether political parties and owners' corporations would be considered as NGOs without government subventions and eligible for the claim of overhead expenses, subject to a cap of 10% of the total approved grant or actual expenditure, whichever is the less; and
- (ii) Whether owners' corporations would be considered as non-profit making organizations and eligible for applying ECF for minor works projects at individual buildings / estates.

27. A Member said that she supported funding to political parties to organize environmental programmes on project basis. For minor works projects at private buildings, the ECF Committee might consider supporting such initiatives as partnership programmes by partial funding. Another Member said that the baseline for funding support should be avoiding any profit-making activities for any individual organizations/ buildings/ estates. Dr Michael CHIU said that some local groups planned to apply for a significant sum of funds for new schools/buildings design and the ECF Committee might consider if there should be funding cap for a particular type of project. The Chairman said that any funding to minor works projects at private buildings involving the question of property rights would be complicated issues. He agreed that Members should discuss the issue in details at the brainstorming session.

**Agenda Item 9: Budget for the Environmental Campaign Committee (ECC)
Environmental Programme for 2008/09
(ECF Paper 55/2007-08)**

28. Ms Miranda YIP briefed Members on the proposed ECC campaigns and activities to be implemented in 2008/09. She drew Members' attention to the new programmes in 2008/09 including a proposal of procuring 1,500 sets of new recycling bins for schools which had never acquired free recycling bins from the

ECC and to replace those that had been worn out. The ECC also proposed to engage four additional project coordinators in the 2008/09 to carry out the new programmes and to cope with the additional workload arising from the new applications for minor works projects and the anticipated increase in the number of applications for environmental education projects.

29. A Member supplemented that the ECC had critically reviewed the staffing requirement for the various programmes. The preliminary response to the 2008 Hong Kong Awards for Environmental Excellence (HKAEE) was encouraging, and the ECC anticipated that the number of applications for environmental programmes from schools and local green groups would increase significantly in view of the revised funding guidelines. The additional staffing requirement was kept to the minimum. Another Member said that the WRPVSC had also considered expanding target participating organisations for the SSW projects to cover schools and commercial buildings though the proportion of funding support was yet to be decided. She opined that the ECC might consider organising more territory-wide campaigns on specific directions or themes. Another Member also opined that the ECC could review the effectiveness of some annual programmes. Dr. Michael CHIU stated that the ECC had from time to time reviewed the effectiveness of individual programmes to ensure best allocation of resources.

30. A Member enquired if resources would be allocated to build up the capacity of district organisations and non-governmental organisations. Another Member shared with Members the difficulties met in organising capacity building programmes. There was little response from district organisations and non-governmental organisations towards such programmes as they might focus on their own areas of concern which might not be the same as ECC's. Nevertheless, the ECC was always in close collaboration with schools in organising various environmental education programmes.

31. In reply to the question from Mr. Richard CHAN on the budget of the 2009 HKAEE, Ms Miranda YIP elaborated the work by the consultant for the Environmental Labels which would include recruiting participants, conducting initial assessment and providing technical advice to participating organisations. Ms Betty CHEUNG supplemented that the Environmental Labels would be valid for one to two years only, and that the awardees of these Labels would be required to

set higher or different environmental goals for renewing the Labels. It was also expected that the number of applications for the Labels would be on the increasing trend, and hence, the assessment workload of the consultant would not be reduced with the experience gained from running the 2008 HKAEE.

32. The Chairman concluded that the meeting approved the funding of \$20.6 million to the ECC for organising their activities in 2008/09. This included the proposed budget of \$6 million for 1,500 sets of new recycling bins for schools.

Agenda Item 10: Date of Next Meeting

33. The Chairman reminded that the brainstorming session would be held on Saturday morning 26 April in the Conference Room of the EPD. Members also noted that the next meeting of the Committee was scheduled for June 2008. The Secretariat would check out the availability of Members and confirm the meeting date nearer the time.

Agenda Item 11: Any Other Business

34. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 12:00 noon.

Secretariat, Environment and Conservation Fund Committee

July 2008