

**Confirmed Minutes of the Fifth Meeting of the  
Environment and Conservation Fund Committee  
held on 23 September 2009 at 3:00 p.m.**

**Present**

Prof. LUNG Ping-ye, David, S.B.S., J.P. (Chairman)	
Prof. CHAN Chak-keung	
Prof. CHU Lee-man	
Mr. CHUA Hoi-wai	
Mr. Joseph LEE, S.B.S., J.P.	
Mr. LEUNG Wai-kuen, Edward, J.P.	
Prof. WONG Woon-chung, Jonathan	
Ms WONG Sean-ye, Anissa, J.P.	PS(Env)/DEP
Mr. WONG Yiu-kam, Benny, J.P.	DDEP(1), EPD
Ms CHEUNG Miu-han, Betty	P(CR), EPD
Mr. YUNG Po-shu, Benjamin	Principle Education Officer, EDB
Mr. LAI Chuen-chi, Patrick	Sr Nature Conservation Officer, AFCD

**Absent with Apologies**

Mr. MAN Mo-leung  
Ms NGAN Man-ling, Edith

**In Attendance**

Mr. Francis WONG	S(CR), EPD
Ms CHAN Suk-ha, Winifred	SEO(CR)1, EPD

**In Attendance for Agenda Item 7**

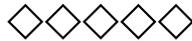
Mr. YAU Tang-wah, Edward	SEN
Ms CHOY Siu-min, Linda	PA/SEN, ENB
Mr. Barry KWONG	Member of ECF RRVSC
Dr. LEUNG Mei-ye, Kenneth	Member of ECF RRVSC
Ms Christine LOH	Civic Exchange
Mr. Andrew LAWSON	Civic Exchange
Ms Michelle WONG	Civic Exchange
Ms YIP Yan-yan	Civic Exchange

**In Attendance for Agenda Items 3 & 4**

Dr. WONG Tung-kong, Lawrence	AD(SD), EPD
Mr. WONG Chuen-fai	P(WR), EPD
Mr. TAM Chun-keung, Wilson	S(WM)3, EPD
Ms CHUI Yi-ping, Fion	E(WR)13, EPD

**In Attendance for Agenda Item 6**

Ms HSIA Mai-chi, Margaret	AD(WM), EPD
Ms KWOK Ying-ying	Greeners Action
Ms YIP Chui-man	Greeners Action



**Opening Remarks:**

The Chairman welcomed all Members to the fifth meeting.

**Agenda Item 1: Confirmation on Minutes of the Meeting held on 15.6.2009**

2. The draft minutes of the last meeting held on 15.6.2009 were sent to members on 14.7.2009. The meeting confirmed the draft minutes subject to the following amendments in paragraph 8 where the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> sentences be amended to read as follows –

“As an example, he indicated that the Hong Kong Council of Social Services (HKCSS) was planning for an international conference in 2010 with an estimate of more than 2,000 participants. Taking into account the registration fees, sponsorship and other incomes, HKCSS had estimated that the budget would be in the order of \$12 million.”

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

### Para. 3 Financial Position of the ECF

3. Mr. Francis WONG reported that the fund balance as at end of August 2009 was \$1,031 million and the uncommitted balance was \$927 million.

## **Agenda Item 3: Operation of the Plastic Waste and Waste Electrical & Electronics Equipment Processing Centres at EcoPark Phase II in Tuen Mun**

### **(i) Applications to Operate the Waste Electrical & Electronics Equipment (WEEE) Processing Centre (ECF Paper 22/2009-10)**

4. Dr Lawrence WONG briefed Members on the paper. By the application closing date on 26.8.2009, three applications were received. The EPD carried out a preliminary assessment of the applications on the basis of the applicant's experience, technical knowledge and suitability to undertake the project, the proposed budget and the financial position of the organization. The Waste Recovery Projects Vetting Sub-committee (WRPVSC) met on 11.9.2009 and the applicants were invited to present their application and respond to questions from members. Having considered the presentations and EPD's assessment, the WRPVSC decided to recommend the proposal from St. James Settlement with a budget of \$9,999,035 to operate the WEEE processing centre for three years.

5. A Member supplemented that the other applicants were less competitive in terms of their experience and technical knowledge in the detailed operation of the centre. The St. James Settlement has extensive experience in WEEE recycling and donation projects and has secured the participation of various housing estates and other NGOs to enhance the collection network. Another Member agreed that the proposed processing centre would be the best option for the time being after considering various

social and environmental implications of increasing amount of WEEE. Afterall, private operators would have initiated their own business when they considered it commercially viable. In response to a Member's question on the sustainability of the proposal and relevant cash flow details, Dr. Lawrence WONG clarified that the recipient organisation had provided information on the financial resources that they can inject to meet the cash flow requirements for the project which would enable them to operate the WEEE recycling centre for three years with no more than \$10 million support from ECF.

6. The Chairman concluded that the proposal by St. James Settlement for the operation of WEEE processing centre in EcoPark for 3 years as stipulated in the ECF Paper 22/2009-10 was approved with a grant of \$9,999,035.

**(ii) Applications to Operate the Plastic Waste Processing Centre  
(ECF Paper 23/2009-10)**

7. Mr. CF WONG briefed Members on the paper. By the application closing date on 26.8.2009, five applications were received. Among the five applicants, one had not completed the registration procedures as a NGO on submission of the proposal and thus the applicant organization was considered not eligible. For the four applications from eligible organizations, the EPD assessed their experience, technical knowledge and capability to undertake the processing centre, the proposed budget and cash flow as well. The WRPVSC met on 11.9.2009 and the four applicants were invited to present their application and respond to questions from members. Having considered the presentations and EPD's assessment, the WRPVSC decided to recommend the proposal from Yan Oi Tong with a budget of \$10 million to the Committee for formal approval.

8. A Member supplemented that the Yan Oi Tong was recommended because the project team has demonstrated a good understanding on the recycling industry and relevant work procedures and has extensive experience in running sizable social service units especially in the NWNT. Its proposal to collect plastics by directly employed staff would create 69 jobs in the districts. Another Member supported the recommendation of the WRPVSC and remarked that Yan Oi Tong has

extensive commercial and community networks which would enhance the efficiency of the processing centre in waste plastics recycling and cash flow. The organization has also committed to make available the daily cash flow requirements of the project. Two Members supported the recommendation of funding Yan Oi Tong to run the waste plastic processing centre. Another Member asked if there would be any terms or conditions binding the organization to sustain the operation of the processing centre or any penalty on unexpected termination of the project. Mr. Francis WONG stated that the recipient organisation would normally make all efforts to sustain the project irrespective of possible changes in project team leaders/members. Ms Anissa WONG added that the site and equipment of the centre were and would continue to be owned by Government. It would be difficult to obtain refund from the recipient organization if they cease the operation of the centres due to various unforeseeable reasons. On the other hand, the operators would be responsible for the operation of the centre including ensuring the safety and management of the employees.

9. The Chairman concluded that the proposal by Yan Oi Tong for the operation of plastic waste processing centre in EcoPark for 3 years as stipulated in the ECF Paper 23/2009-10 was approved with a grant of \$10 million.

10. Ms Anissa WONG suggested and the Chairman agreed that Members would be invited to visit the two processing centres when they start operation. Ms Anissa WONG added that a press release would be arranged in the following day to announce the ECF funding support to the above two organizations to operate the two processing centres on plastic waste and WEEE in EcoPark respectively.

#### **Agenda Item 4: Implementing Central Portioning at Schools**

**(i) Allocation of Fund to Schools for Central Portioning  
(ECF Paper 28/2009-10)**

**(ii) Proposal for Entrusting Electrical and Mechanical Services Trading  
Fund for Implementing Central Portioning at Schools  
(ECF Paper 24/2009-10)**

11. Mr. Francis WONG briefed Members on the two papers which proposed an allocation of \$50 million for schools to apply for facilities/works to implement central portioning and the engagement of the Electrical and Mechanical Services Trading Fund (EMSTF) to provide professional support and conduct works for implementing central portioning at those schools. The WRPVSC met in May and September 2009 and agreed to allocate funds to schools for implementation of central portioning so as to reduce food waste. Items to be funded would cover facilities/equipment and works related to re-heating/distribution of cooked food and washing of containers/cutleries, as well as cookers/heaters for rice and vegetables. The amount of \$50 million was estimated to cover 40 typical 30-class schools and relevant project management services provided by the EMSTF to such schools. Participating schools might also choose to engage their own contractors for the works and EMSTF would provide consultant monitoring service in such cases.

12. Two Members enquired if there would be corresponding supporting services to schools in addition to funds for hardware and subsequent monitoring procedures on the effectiveness of the programme. Mr. CF WONG stated that the Education Bureau had issued a circular appealing to all schools for their participation in central portioning and citing the benefits of central portioning at schools and relevant funding support from ECF. The Education Bureau would collaborate with EPD to arrange seminars and talks to schools on the implementation of central portioning. In assessing the effectiveness of the scheme, a Member suggested EPD to compare the amount of food waste before and after implementation of the scheme. Another Member supported the scheme as there would probably be reduction in the number of disposable containers and cutleries and he suggested if schools would also consider those lunches supplier operated by social enterprises. The Chairman agreed on this point and advised Mr. CHUA to forward information of relevant social enterprises to Mr. CF WONG for references.

13. A Member and Mr. Patrick LAI enquired about the carbon footprint implication, estimated reduction of food waste and recurrent implication to be borne by schools management upon implementation of central portioning. Another Member and Mr. CF WONG explained that central portioning would be operated manually instead of mechanically and

thus there should be no net increase in carbon emission. With the adoption of on-site meal portioning, no disposable containers and cutleries would be used. The food portions would also be flexibly adjusted according to the need of individual students. The lunch suppliers would be responsible for the additional manpower in central portioning, in collection and washing of containers and cutleries and relevant charges on electricity and water usage. There would be little recurrent implications on schools. At present, central portioning are implemented in around 50 to 70 schools and they can provide information on equipment used and utilities charges data as basis for allocation of funds to other schools going to join the scheme. EPD had arranged briefings to some schools principals who generally welcomed the offer of EMSTF to provide professional support and conduct works for implementing central portioning at schools.

14. The Chairman concluded that the Committee supported the proposal and earmarked \$50 million for the green lunch scheme.

#### **Agenda Item 5: Funding Energy Conservation Projects for NGOs**

**(i) Funding Support for Energy Conservation Projects for NGOs  
(ECF Paper 26/2009-10)**

**(ii) Proposal for Entrusting Electrical & Mechanical Services Trading Fund to Provide Support to the Operation of the Energy Conservation Projects for NGOs  
(ECF Paper 27/2009-10)**

15. Mr. Francis WONG briefed Members on the two papers. Members' approval was sought to allocate funding for the Energy Conservation Projects Funding Scheme under which full or partial support of eligible non-government organisations (NGOs) to promote and implement energy conservation projects. Eligible NGOs might apply directly to ECF for funding to implement energy-cum-carbon audit and/or energy improvement works inside buildings or premises owned or occupied by the NGOs who are designated to conduct non-profit making or charitable activities. Local non-profit making organisations (e.g. green groups or

community bodies) that are granted tax exemption status by the Commissioner of Inland Revenue under Section 88 of the Inland Revenue Ordinance and conducting non-profit making or charitable activities in their owned or occupied building or premises would be eligible to apply. The funding cap for the total actual payment made for the audit and subsequent reporting for each building or premise would be 100% of the actual payment or \$200,000 whichever the less. For energy improvement works, the amount of grant for each building or premises shall not exceed 100% of the actual payment made for the works when total payment is less than or equal to \$300,000. For each application with actual payment exceeding \$300,000, the amount of grant for each building or premises shall be the sum of \$300,000 and 80% of the actual payment in excess of \$300,000 made for the works subject to a cap of \$1 million.

16. Mr. Francis WONG remarked that Members' approval was also sought to entrust the EMSTF to provide professional support to the operation of the energy-cum-carbon audit and energy improvement works which are under the Energy Conservation Projects Funding Scheme for eligible NGOs with an allocation of HK\$11 million for a period of three years for the manpower resources required. There are about 3,000 premises/buildings operated by NGOs for charity operations in Hong Kong. Most of these (about 80%) have floor areas less than 3000 square feet. As such, simple and straight-forward cases involving, for example, the replacement of energy saving light bulbs or air conditioners may not require the EMSTF's technical advice. Cases involving larger premises/buildings that may involve the replacement of heat pump, centralized chillers or lifts would require the engagement of full technical support from the EMSTF for the vetting and monitoring of the applications. The EMSTF will provide a dedicated team comprising a professional engineer, an electrical inspector and a supporting administrative staff to process the referred complicated applications (estimated to be around 100 cases) for the total service period of three years.

17. A Member said that NGOs might apply for funding support from Lotteries Fund for major repairing work. Ms Betty CHEUNG remarked that the focus of Lotteries Fund support was on major repair and replacement of broken or worn-out items while ECF would consider environmental-related projects. Ms Anissa WONG added that new buildings would be subject to the new building energy code to be implemented soon. The proposed

funding scheme would provide assistance to NGOs on improving their existing offices premises/buildings.

18. Another Member said that he supported the funding scheme and suggested special consideration should be given to those campsites operated by NGOs. Installation of renewable energy items in the campsites would probably enhance their educational role. Ms Betty CHEUNG said that the Secretariat has been discussing with Po Leung Kuk on such proposed installation works projects in the Tai Tong and Pak Tam Chung Holiday Camps and formal proposals would be prepared accordingly. In response to Mr. Patrick LAI's enquiry, Ms Betty CHEUNG explained that NGOs applying funding for the energy improvement projects would not be required to conduct the energy-cum-carbon audit in advance and the EMSTF would be invited to provide technical advice for vetting complicated cases involving replacement of heat pump, centralized chillers or lifts.

19. After discussion, the Chairman concluded that the Committee endorsed the proposed Energy Conservation Projects Funding Scheme for NGOs and agreed to engage EMSTF to provide professional support for the Funding Scheme with a grant of \$11 million.

**Agenda Item 6: Public Education Programme for the Policy Framework for the Management of Municipal Solid Waste – “Say No to Newspaper Bags” by Greeners Action  
(ECF Paper 25/2009-10)**

20. Ms Margaret HSIA briefed Members on the paper which summarized the project details recommended by the ACE Waste Management Subcommittee at the meeting on 3 September 2009. Although the environmental levy scheme did not cover newspaper vendors, the proposal could promote BYOB which was consistent with the objective of the levy scheme and was thus in line with the current theme of the Public Education Programme. Two representatives of the applicant organization were invited to answer questions from Members.

21. Two Members queried on the cost effectiveness of organizing photography competition and discussion forum. At present, members of public would generally support the idea of using less plastic bags. The cost effectiveness of arranging public forum on this topic was less justified. The proposed photography competition and discussion forum appeared to target at students instead of newspaper buyers and vendors and it would have little direct effect on reducing the use of newspaper bags. The representative explained that the forum would raise public awareness in particular the discussion of possible extension of the environmental levy scheme for plastic shopping bags to cover newspaper vendors as well. A Member then said that some activities aiming at educating the newspaper vendors to stop giving free newspaper bags might be more cost effective. Two Members added that the project should focus on educating people not to take the plastic bags when buying newspapers. Some incentives or recognition might be considered for persuading the vendors not to give free newspaper bags. Another Member appreciated the applicant's effort of soliciting the assistance from relevant trade associations but would desire a larger scale of activities covering more districts. Mr. Benjamin YUNG and Mr. Patrick LAI also considered that the format of the activities should be further refined as one-off event like discussion forum could less likely mobilize people to take action to use fewer newspaper bags.

22. The Chairman concluded that the proposed education programme on reducing use of newspaper bags was appreciated but the format of activities should be refined in the following areas:

- the activities of the proposal should target at the newspaper vendors and buyers;
- more in-depth activities that facilitated behavioral changes of the newspaper vendors should be organized; and
- the proposal should cover more newspaper vendors in more districts.

23. The two representatives of the applicant organization and Ms Margaret HSIA left the meeting after the discussion.

**Agenda Item 7: C40 Hong Kong Conference on Low Carbon Living and Climate Change  
(ECF Paper 21/2009-10)**

24. Mr. Edward YAU briefed Members on the background of organizing the C40 Hong Kong Conference in November 2010. As a member of the C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group, Hong Kong is aware of the important role of cities can play in the global effort to combat climate change. The Administration has set a clear policy to promote low carbon living. The proposed two-day C40 conference will form part of the five-day series of events to engage the stakeholders of Hong Kong, Mainland China, the region and other parts of the world in a dialogue about climate change. The Environmental Campaign Committee (ECC) will co-organise the conference with Civic Exchange. The conference will help take Hong Kong's profile on climate change to a new level and encourage dialogues between cities from overseas as well as the mainland, in particular the Pearl River Delta.

25. The Chairman welcomed the proposal and remarked that the conference proposal had not been discussed by the RPSVC taking into account the proximity of the last RPSVC meeting and this ECF meeting, as well as the scale of the proposed project. Members of the RPSVC were thus invited to take part in the discussion of this item. Dr. Kenneth LEUNG and Mr. Barry KWONG joined the meeting. Ms Linda CHOY supplemented that a steering committee would be formed and chaired by the Chairman of ECC to provide the steer for and oversee the planning of C40 conference in conjunction with the remaining of the five-day series. Civic Exchange has submitted a separate application to HKJCCT for funding support. Four representatives of the Civic Exchange were then invited to brief Members on the conference proposal.

26. A representative presented the proposal. Buildings and transportation system would be the focus of the conference as urban planning, building design and transport management are crucial factors to low carbon quality green living in cities. There would be keynote presentations by relevant C40 cities and experts, panel discussions to involve public officials, property developers, built environment professionals and business, and

facilitated breakout sessions for more intense exchange of experience. In response to the question on community participation raised by the Chairman and two Members, a representative stated that the proposal was not just about a two-day conference. Before the conference date next year, there would be many pre-conference discussions and local universities would be approached as supporting partners to hold stakeholders gatherings of various sizes and themes. The conference would provide opportunities for the relevant business and professional networks to disseminate Hong Kong ideas and technologies on low carbon economy. Through exchange with international counterparts, it would help build the capacity of local experts and professionals. In addition to C40 officials, there would be academics and scientists invited to the five-day events and local universities and professional associations may consider inviting these international speakers to speak and participate at extra events and lectures on individual campuses. There would also be a youth day on the last day of the five-day events to raise awareness of students and young people in sustainable life style.

27. A Member remarked that the ECC supported the proposal and considered it a good opportunity to get the community involved in climate change issues. As there would be showcase of public and private initiatives in Hong Kong to tackle climate change, it would probably stimulate the interest from media and local public on environmental issues. In reply to Mr. Patrick LAI's enquiry, the representative stated that C40 has approved Hong Kong's proposal to host a two-day conference with focus on building energy efficiency and promotion of electric vehicles as keys to low carbon living. It would be the major C40 event on climate change in 2010.

28. In response to a Member's enquiry about the budget of airfare for the speakers and participants, the representative explained that C40 Secretariat advised that based on previous C40 events, a travel subsidy should be offered to two delegates for each city per subject. The rationale behind C40's arrangement was to ensure that members of the group, which were at different states of economic development, would not be deprived of the opportunity to join the meetings because of a lack of means. She added that all delegates from the C40 cities and the Mainland would be requested to submit reports or to give presentations on their case studies for exchange and discussion with other cities on their strategies and measures. As some cities may offer to fully fund their delegates and some may not accept the invitation, there may

be savings in this category. Moreover, the budget of airfare was less than the full cost of a business class flight and was weighted in favour of cities from developing countries.

29. The four representatives of the Civic Exchange left the conference room after answering Members' questions. A Member enquired if the engagement of Civic Exchange as the executive arm was appropriate. Another Member considered that Civic Exchange should be capable to organize the event. He had experience in taking part in some conferences organized by Civic Exchange which could properly provide the link between academics and the industrial and commercial fields. Ms Anissa WONG said Civic Exchange had a unique advantage over other bodies in organizing a C40 event as its Chief Executive Officer, Ms Christine Loh, was an advisor to C40 and the Civic Exchange had established partnership with the C40 Secretariat, these factors were essential in organizing this C40 Conference in Hong Kong.

30. A Member appreciated the strong capacity building element of the conference. He considered the budget reasonable as the final disbursement of fund would base on actual expenditure. Another Member agreed on this point and remarked that disbursement of funds on airfare should be arranged according to the actual expenditure. Another Member supported the proposal and suggested if the ECF Committee would prepare to fund the remaining budget of the five-day event should HKJCCT decide not to fund the conference. Ms Linda CHOY said that Civic Exchange had expressed optimism about funding support from HKJCCT, but noted a formal decision would be made after the ECF Committee deliberated on the C40 conference funding application. A Member also supported the proposal and advised if the ECF Committee would consider inviting research proposals from tertiary institutes on the themes of the conference. Another Member remarked that, the ECC, being the organizer of the conference would closely monitor the progress of the conference accordingly. Ms Anissa WONG appealed to Members and their associated organisations to support and promote the conference.

31. The Chairman concluded that the Committee endorsed the proposed funding of \$5,421,931 to support the C40 conference to be organized by ECC and Civic Exchange in November 2010 as stipulated in the

**Agenda Item 8: Date of Next Meeting**

32. Members noted that the next meeting was tentatively scheduled for 10 December 2009. The Secretariat would confirm with Members the meeting date nearer the time.

33. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 6:45 p.m.

Secretariat, Environment and Conservation Fund Committee  
December 2009