

**Confirmed Minutes of the Ninth Meeting of the
Environment and Conservation Fund Committee
held on 15 September 2010 at 3:30 p.m.**

Present

Prof. LUNG Ping-ye, David, S.B.S., J.P. (Chairman)	
Prof. CHAN Chak-keung	
Prof. CHU Lee-man	
Mr. Joseph LEE, S.B.S., J.P.	
Mr. LEUNG Wai-kuen, Edward, J.P.	
Mr. MAN Mo-leung	
Prof. WONG Woon-chung, Jonathan	
Mr. WONG Yiu-kam, Benny, J.P.	DDEP(1), EPD
Ms CHEUNG Miu-han, Betty	P(CR), EPD
Mr. TAM Koon-che	Principal Education Officer, EDB
Mr. CHEUNG Kwok-wai	Senior Conservation Officer, AFCD

Absent with Apologies

Mr. CHUA Hoi-wai
Mrs. CHAN NGAN Man-ling, Edith

In Attendance

Miss CHAN Yin-ting, Eunice	SAO(CR), EPD
Ms CHAN Suk-ha, Winifred	SEO(CR)1, EPD

In Attendance for Agenda Item 6

Mrs. Christy TUNG NG Ling-ling	Chairlady of Yan Chai Hospital (YCH) Board
Mr. Alfred WONG	Chief Executive of YCH Board
Mr. LEE Yat-sun	Deputy Chief Executive of YCH Board
Ms Ellen CHAK	Admin & HR Supervisor of YCH Board



Opening Remarks:

The Chairman welcomed all Members to the ninth meeting.

Item 1: Confirmation on Minutes of the Meeting held on 7.8.2010

2. The draft minutes of the last meeting held on 7.8.2010 were sent to members on 12.8.2010. The meeting confirmed the draft minutes without amendment. As the minutes of the meeting held on 7.8.2010 would be kept confidential for the time being, the Secretariat would not post the minutes of meeting held on 7.8.2010 on the webpage until further notice.

Item 2: Matters Arising

Para. 3 Financial Position of the ECF

3. Miss Eunice CHAN reported that as at end of August 2010, the balance in bank was \$946 million and the balance open to applications outside the designated programmes was \$25.33 million. The Administration will closely monitor the funding position and arrange injection to the fund as and when appropriate.

4. Noting the balance open to applications outside the designated programmes and the funding sought for the applications to be possessed at the meeting, a Member raised whether the Committee had the authority to adjust the earmarked sum for certain specific themes/areas at appropriate junctures. The Committee acknowledged that the Committee had such authority. Mr. Benny WONG explained to the Committee that the balance at bank for ECF amounted to \$946 million and there was sufficient cash to support the approved projects. Regarding the seemingly low balance open to applications outside the designated programme, as the Committee has the authority to adjust the earmarked sum for designated programmes, he considered it appropriate to continue the processing of new applications.

Furthermore, he reassured that the Government would consider additional injection to the fund as and when appropriate. Ms Betty CHEUNG advised that the Secretariat would monitor the funding position closely.

Para. 4 Progress Report by Tung Wah Group of Hospitals – Move Towards a Green Organisation

5. Miss Eunice CHAN reported the following items in respect of TWGH's programme:

- (i) TWGH had submitted the second half-yearly progress report summarizing the work carried out from February to July 2010. It would be circulated to all Members in due course.
- (ii) The Committee visited two TWGH's schools on 7.9.2010 and noted the updated progress of the 3-year programme of Moving Towards a Green Organisation. At the site visit, TWGH introduced that TWGH had some new initiatives outside the 3-year programme in mind, such as purchase of electric vehicles, installation of the solar water heaters for a rehabilitation centre and heat pumps for a hospital.
- (iii) The TWGH Environmental Steering Committee would meet on 11 October 2010 and Prof Jonathan WONG, representative of the Committee, will attend the meeting accordingly.

6. The Chairman appreciated the effort of TWGH in the programme particularly the engagement of students during the visit on 7.9.2010. Noting that some programmes in the 3-year plan were still outstanding, the Committee agreed that new funding proposals could be considered when the 3-year plan was about to be completed. A Member had reservation on supporting the purchase of EVs as there were only limited EV models in the market at this stage. Another Member opined that if EVs were to be supported by ECF, they should be for demonstration purpose and not replacement of the existing fleet. The Chairman concluded that further deliberation was needed for TWGH's newly proposed initiatives.

7. Miss Eunice CHAN reported that TWGH had submitted

applications to pursue various initiatives under the 3-year programme and the funding sought by applications submitted amounted to \$14 million. It was noted that for some programmes, there would be variations of funding requested from the corresponding indicative figures in the original overall plan. Since those indicative figures were for budgetary purpose and there would be variation of funding requested upon launching of various items, the Secretariat suggested that the Committee delegate the monitoring of budget to the Secretariat such that the reallocation of funding between different budget items need not seek the Committee's approval individually. After deliberation, Members agreed that the Secretariat might increase the approved amount of an individual budgeted item by up to 20% provided that the ceiling amount of the overall programme (i.e. \$19.84 million) would not be exceeded. The Secretariat should closely monitor the situation, and would report to the ECF Committee at suitable junctures.

C40 Hong Kong Workshop on Low Carbon Living and Climate Change

8. Miss Eunice CHAN advised Members that the C40 Hong Kong Workshop co-organised by ECC and Civic Exchange would be held on 5 and 6 November 2010, and Members might wish to attend the Opening Plenary in the morning of 5 November. Further information would be forwarded to Members nearer the time.

9. Miss Eunice CHAN remarked that the organizers were considering if youth volunteer ambassadors would be engaged in receiving the overseas delegates of the C40 Workshop. If so, there might be some additional expenses, such as travelling subsidies for the youth volunteers. The request for additional funding, if required, would be circulated to Members for endorsement when the proposal was firmed up.

[Post-meeting note: The ECF Paper 09/2010-11 on proposed revision of budget items for TWGH's programme and the C40 Hong Kong Workshop was subsequently circulated to Members for endorsement on 6 October 2010.]

10. As Members of the Environmental Campaign Committee (ECC),

Prof David LUNG, Mr. Joseph LEE and Prof Jonathan WONG declared interest as the funding applications under Agenda Item 3 was associated with ECC. Prof David LUNG invited Mr. MAN Mo-leung to chair the discussion of this agenda item.

Item 3: Funding Application by the Environmental Campaign Committee for the Promotion Programme on Source Separation of Waste (ECF Paper 05/2010-11)

11. Miss Eunice CHAN explained the proposal in ECF Paper 5/2010-11 in detail. She said that the ECC had agreed at the last meeting held on 14.9.2010 to seek the Committee's approval for a supplementary grant of \$6 million so as to continue the Promotion Programme on Source Separation of Waste (PPSSW) up to March 2012. The PPSSW had been well received since its commencement in December 2008. The free allocation of recycling bins provided a very good incentive to encourage housing estates and commercial and industrial buildings to join the Programme on the Source Separation of Waste (SSW Programme). In reply to a Member's question on monitoring the use of these bins, Ms Betty CHEUNG advised that recipient organizations of the bins were required to report regularly the amount of recyclables collected. On the wear and tear of the bins, the ECC Secretariat would, where appropriate, seek views from other user departments such as the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) to consider improvements for the plastic bins.

12. Members made no further comment on the ECC funding application. The meeting concluded that the ECC application was approved with a grant of \$6 million.

13. Prof. David LUNG resumed the chairmanship for the following sessions of the meeting.

Item 4: Funding Application Recommended by the Environmental Education and Community Action Projects Vetting

Subcommittee

(i) MW0504 "Urban Oasis" by the Christian Family Service Centre (ECF Paper 06/2010-11)

14. A Member declared interest as he had provided professional advice to the applicant organisation in the setting up of the organic farm. Miss Eunice CHAN briefed Members on the ECF Paper 06/2010-11, which summarized the proposal submitted by the Christian Family Service Centre. The applicant organisation would set up an organic farm in a piece of vacant land in Kwun Tong leased at \$1/year for 3 years from the Lands Department. The project was for practising organic farming and demonstration of renewable energy and food composting. The EE&CAPVSC recommended supporting the project with a total grant of \$4,265,702. The applicant organisation had estimated that some income would be generated from various activities, such as renting small plots of land for organic farming, eco-tour and educational activities. The actual income during the operation period would be ploughed back into the project. The Environment and Hygiene Committee of the Kwun Tong District Council was consulted and indicated support to the proposal. The Chairman of Kwun Tong District Council would also take part in the project management committee to oversee the project implementation.

15. Two Members asked on the prospect for sustainability of the project. Another Member asked on various operational details. In response, Ms Betty CHEUNG stated that the EE&CAPVSC had discussed thoroughly the operational details of the project and noted that the applicant organization had enlisted support from various professional bodies in project planning and implementation. As regards the project duration, generally the lease period for short-term tenancy approved by Lands Department would be 3 years. The applicant organisation considered that residents of the district should welcome the proposed organic farming activities and eco-tour and thus the project should become self-sustainable after a certain period of time. Another Member appreciated that the applicant organisation planned to become self-sustain after the ECF supported the operation cost for the initial 18 months. There was no further comment from the Members, and the Chairman concluded to support the proposal with a grant of \$4,265,702.

Item 5: Funding Application Recommended by the Energy Conservation Projects Vetting Subcommittee (ECPVSC)

(i) Projects recommended under the Buildings Energy Efficiency Funding Schemes (ECF Paper 07/2010-11)

16. Miss Eunice CHAN briefed Members on the paper which summarized the recommendations made by the ECPVSC on five energy efficiency projects. The total amount of recommended funding for the five projects was \$15,000,730. A Member, Chairman of the ECPVSC, supplemented that the applications were examined by the EMSTF and subsequently vetted by ECPVSC against the funding guidelines.

17. There was no further comment from the Members, and the Chairman concluded to support the following five energy efficiency projects with a total grant of \$15,000,730.

- The Incorporated Owners of Lei Tung Estate
- The Incorporated Owners of Lower Wong Tai Sin (1) Estate
- The Incorporated Owners of Sun Tuen Mun Centre
- The Incorporated Owners of Chuk Yuen (North) Estate
- The Incorporated Owners of Luk Yeung Sun Chuen

**Item 6: Yan Chai Hospital – Evolving into a Green Non-governmental Organisation
(ECF Paper 04/2010-11)**

18. Mr. Benny WONG said that Yan Chai Hospital (YCH) had attended the briefing held on 24.9.2009 when the charities were invited to develop green vision and strategy and to turn themselves into green organisations. It was against this background that YCH had prepared its application to transform itself into a green non-governmental organisation (NGO) for ECF's consideration. Mr. Benny WONG added that the extensive service network of YCH would make it an effective platform to promote the idea of green living.

19. A representative of YCH briefed Members on YCH's background, organisation structure and the vision of evolving into a green NGO. Another representative of YCH presented the action plan of the YCH with the objective to become a green NGO and its green approach in delivering its services. A series of green initiatives would be implemented under a framework of seven strategies:

- (a) Green Governance
- (b) Total Environmental Management
- (c) Energy efficiency and reduction of carbon footprint
- (d) Pollution prevention
- (e) Resource management
- (f) Green procurement
- (g) Use of Electric Vehicles with Zero Emissions
- (h) Green Education and Promotion

YCH proposed to seek a funding support of \$17,991,920 from ECF, of which \$15,904,920 would be for 110 green projects in 53 services units, \$887,000 would be the cost for organizing education and promotion programmes and \$1,200,000 the fee for commissioning an environmental consultant.

20. A Member opined that the YCH has a good network on elderly and medical service and installation of green features such as composting machines in elderly centres and hostels could probably enhance outreach to the wider community. The representative of YCH agreed and said that YCH was planning for a new elderly centre in Yuen Chau Estate which would provide care and attention home services to elderly. Appropriate green features would be incorporated in the new centre and the redevelopment work of YCH which was in progress now. In response to the enquiry by a Member, a representative of YCH explained that selection of schools for specific minor works projects was based on the preliminary feasibility study results conducted before submission of the proposal.

21. A Member enquired if YCH would set a target for the amount of carbon that could be reduced upon completion of the 3-year greening project. He suggested that a carbon audit could be conducted at the beginning of the

3-year period and another one upon completion of project. He also suggested that YCH could consider installing composting machines of different capacities to meet the requirement of different services units. The representative of YCH agreed that a carbon audit for YCH before and after the 3-year programme would provide a quantitative basis for assessing the effectiveness of the project. In response to a Member's further question on the selection of three community centres for conducting carbon audit, the representative of YCH explained that the audits results could help to identify areas of improving energy efficiency and reducing carbon footprint in centres of similar scale and thus provide a demonstration effect to other centres.

22. In response to Mr. KC TAM's query, the representative of YCH confirmed that only old air-conditioners that required replacement would be included in this greening programme and replaced by energy-efficient models. A Member enquired on the organization scale of YCH. The representative of YCH said that YCH has operated a wide range of services units including education, medical and health and social services units. The benefits of the installations would be substantial and could reach multiple groups of the community, including staff, target service users (e.g. students and their family) as well as the general public. Members generally supported the proposal. The Chairman then suggested YCH to consider organising some competitions among various units in carbon reduction.

23. Mrs. Christy TUNG, Mr. Alfred WONG, Mr. LEE Yat-sun and Ms Ellen CHAK left after the discussion.

24. A Member considered that YCH has strong network in clinical and social services and opined that YCH should leverage its strength and focus the green programme on such services, rather than on schools, so as to achieve a better demonstration effect in the community. Other members shared the same view that the YCH proposal, as submitted, was quite similar to those of the two previous charities and might not be able to bring the environmental messages to a wider spectrum of audience in the community. A Member and the Chairman suggested that the Secretariat should explore and recommend evaluation methods for similar applications from charities in the future.

25. The Chairman concluded that an approval-in-principle with the ceiling figure of \$17.99 million would be given for YCH to undertake initiatives to turn itself into a green NGO through a 3-year programme, and the YCH would review the programme and budget allocation to put more focus to the clinical and social services. The funding support for individual initiatives would be assessed separately upon YCH's submission of detailed proposals. The vetting subcommittees would discuss in detail and decide on the exact amount of funding support for individual items, having regard to the relevant implementation plans and the requirement of progress reports according to the prevailing funding guidelines. This approach would ensure all proposals to the ECF were processed on a fair and consistent basis.

[Post-meeting note: The Secretariat provided Members' comment to YCH after the meeting. YCH proactively revisited the proposal and proposed to turn one of its new social service centres, namely the Un Chau Elderly Home, into a signature green model demonstrating the use of green technology in the setting of a social service centre. In addition, YCH proposed to conduct a carbon footprinting for the whole YCH Group, so as to help identifying areas of improvement for reducing carbon footprint and provide a quantitative basis for assessing the effectiveness of the project. YCH would work further to finetune the overall programme.]

Item 7: Any Other Business

26. The Chairman remarked that as the current term of the Environment and Conservation Fund Committee would expire on 15.10.2010, both the Chairman and Mr. Benny WONG thanked all members for their contribution in the past two years

27. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 5:40 pm.

Secretariat, Environment and Conservation Fund Committee

October 2010