

Environment and Conservation Fund Committee

**C40 Hong Kong Conference on Low Carbon Living and Climate Change
(5 & 6 November 2010)**

Purpose

This paper seeks Members' agreement for allocating HK\$5,421,319 from the Environment and Conservation Fund (ECF) to the Environmental Campaign Committee (ECC) and the Civic Exchange for co-organizing the 'C40 Hong Kong Conference on Low Carbon Living and Climate Change' (C40 Conference) with the C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group (C40) at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre on 5 and 6 November 2010.

Background

2. The Civic Exchange has recently initiated an idea of organizing an international public conference on climate change in Hong Kong, with a view to raising public awareness to the subject and facilitating exchanges on the strategies to tackle the environmental problem. The Civic Exchange is an independent Hong Kong-based public policy think tank established in 2000. It also became a charitable institution in 2002. With the blessing of the Environment Bureau, a proposal for Hong Kong to host the C40 Conference on building energy efficiency and promotion of electric vehicles (EVs) has been submitted to the C40 for the conference to be organised as a C40 event. C40 is an organisation formed by forty large cities from six continents to foster international collaboration over climate change using cities as the basis.

3. After initial exchanges with the Civic Exchange, we consider that there are grounds for the ECC to collaborate with the Civic Exchange and the C40 over the conference. In response to the appeal of the United Nations on the World Environment Day 2009 for global efforts to combat climate change, the ECC has been organizing various publicity campaigns and environmental programmes with the theme of 'low carbon living' in this financial year. Being a government-appointed organization responsible for promoting the public awareness of environmental issues, the idea of an international conference will help draw the public attention to the grave threats and challenges posed by climate change, as well as to build the image of Hong Kong as a 'thought and action' city with innovative ideas on climate change. The conference will also 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.

Proposal

4. Details of the Civic Exchange's proposal on the C40 Conference have been set out in their application for the ECF funding, a copy of which is attached at the **Appendix** for reference. The C40 Conference will form part of the "Climate Change Creativity – Creating a Low Carbon Economy for Low Carbon Living – Climate Change Conference 2010" (Climate Change Conference 2010). The latter will coincide with the 5th Eco Expo Asia, an annual local event for environmental industries from Hong Kong, Mainland China and overseas to showcase their latest products / services and networks. The Climate Change Conference 2010 will be a five-day series of events in Hong Kong to engage stakeholders from Hong Kong, Mainland China, the region and other parts of the world in a dialogue about climate change. The sequential events are set out below:

- Day 1: an update on the latest science
- Day 2: an exchange of views among the world's leading climate change thought-and-action leaders
- Day 3: C40 conference focussing on buildings and retrofitting buildings, as well as the role of electric vehicles
- Day 4: same as Day 3
- Day 5: a community day to engage students and young people in Hong Kong

5. Days 3 and 4 will be the C40 Conference in which inter-city discussions will be made on the areas of building energy efficiency and promotion of EVs. The Conference is designed for approximately 350-450 participants. Mayors and senior officials of the C40 cities, the key Mainland figures from government, business, civil society, and academia as well as relevant local stakeholders will be invited to participate in the Conference. All delegates from the C40 cities and the Mainland will 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.

6. The approach to the design of the C40 Conference will include keynote presentations by relevant C40 cities and experts; panel discussions to involve public officials, property developers, built environment professionals, business and civil society actors; and facilitated breakout sessions for more intense dialogue and exchange of experience.

7. Given their role at the forefront of environmental technologies in Hong Kong, including EVs, their statutory foundation and good public objectives, the Hong Kong Productivity Council (HKPC) will be engaged in a consulting capacity to help plan and co-ordinate the EV stream on Days 3 and 4. The HKPC has a firm grasp of government policy as well as peerless networks amongst vehicle manufacturers, battery manufacturers, financiers, industrialists, and researchers on the subject locally, in the Pearl River Delta Region and internationally.

Organizing Structure

8. A high level Steering Committee will provide the overall programme direction. Membership will include the Secretary for Environment (or his designate), the C40 Secretariat, the Clinton Climate Initiative (closely working with C40), the HKPC, the Civic Exchange, and the ECC. The ECC Chairman will chair the Steering Committee, and one representative from the ECC Secretariat may join the Steering Committee as an observer to assist the ECC Chairman, where necessary, to feedback to the ECC, and / or provide the linkage between the ECC and the Steering Committee.

9. Operational matters will be overseen by a Hong Kong-based Management Committee, with a number of sub-Committees for specific subject matters (e.g. low carbon buildings; EVs). The Management Committee will seek advice from the supporting organizations.

10. At its 114th Meeting held on 11 September 2009, the ECC agreed to co-organize the C40 Conference with the Civic Exchange and the C40 at the HKCEC on 5 and 6 November 2010, and to jointly seek funding support of HK\$5,421,319 from the ECF with the Civic Exchange for hosting this two-day international conference.

Budget

11. The total budget for the C40 Conference is HK\$5,421,319, the detailed breakdown of which is shown at **Attachment 5 to the Appendix**. Separately, the Civic Exchange is seeking around HK\$5.9 million from the Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust for organizing the events of Days 1, 2 and 5 as mentioned in paragraph 4 above.

Advice Sought

12. Members are invited to consider the proposal and approve the funding allocation to the ECC and the Civic Exchange as stated in the first paragraph. This paper will be discussed at the forthcoming ECF Committee meeting to be held on 23 September 2009, and the Civic Exchange will also give a presentation on their proposal during the meeting.

*ECC Secretariat
September 2009*