

**Confirmed Minutes of the Sixth Meeting of the
Environment and Conservation Fund Committee
held on 10 December 2009 at 2:15 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. MAN Mo-leung	
Ms NGAN Man-ling, Edith	
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. LEUNG Wai-kuen, Edward, J.P.
Prof. WONG Woon-chung, Jonathan

In Attendance

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

In Attendance for Agenda Item 3

Mr. YAU Tang-wah, Edward	SEN
Ms CHOY Siu-min, Linda	PA/SEN, ENB
Mr. David C.H. HO	Po Leung Kuk
Mr. Quincy K.Y. LUI	Po Leung Kuk
Ms Grace WU	Po Leung Kuk
Mr. Eddie LEUNG	Po Leung Kuk

In Attendance for Agenda Item 4

Ms HSIA Mai-chi, Margaret	AD(WM), EPD
Mr. TANG Chi-leung, Vincent	AD(CI), EPD

Dr. Carol MA
Miss Jennie CHIN

Lingnan University
Lingnan University

In Attendance for Agenda Item 5

Mr. TANG Chi-leung, Vincent
Mr. Lay Chik-chuen
Miss LI Chim-wing, Vivien
Dr. Billy HAU
Ms Miss Katie Chick
Dr. CHEUNG Ho-fai
Miss Vicky YEUNG
Dr. YAU Wing-kwong
Ms Colleen CHIU
Mr. TAM Kin-chung

AD(CI), EPD
AD(Con), AFCD
SAO(NC), EPD
Conservancy Association
Conservancy Association
Hong Kong Bird Watching Society
Hong Kong Bird Watching Society
Tai Po Environmental Association
Tai Po Environmental Association
Tai Po Environmental Association

In Attendance for Agenda Items 6

Miss CHOI Man-ye, Katharine
Mr. FUNG Kin-ye, Kent
Mr. Michael WONG

PAS(EG), ENB
AS(EG)4, ENB
EME/DP7/2, EMSD



Opening Remarks:

The Chairman welcomed all Members to the sixth meeting and welcomed Miss Eunice CHAN, who replaced Mr. Francis WONG as Secretary of the ECF Committee.

Agenda Item 1: Confirmation on Minutes of the Meeting held on 23.9.2009

2. The draft minutes of the last meeting held on 23.9.2009 were sent to members on 13.11.2009. The meeting confirmed the draft minutes subject to the amendment of a typo in the attendance list on page 2. Ms Margaret HSIA and the Greeners Action attended the agenda item 6, instead of item 5 at the last meeting.

Agenda Item 2: Matters Arising

Para. 3 Financial Position of the ECF

3. Miss Eunice CHAN reported that the fund balance as at end of November 2009 was \$1,013 million and the uncommitted balance was \$825 million.

Para. 11-14 Implementing Central Portioning at Schools

4. Miss Eunice CHAN reported that the “On-site Meal Portioning in Schools Projects” was launched on 7.12.2009 and interested schools can submit funding applications starting from that date.

Para. 20-23 Public Education Programme under the Policy Framework for the Management of Municipal Solid Waste

5. Miss Eunice CHAN reported that the revised proposal from Greeners Action “Say No to Newspaper Bags” was endorsed by circulation with an approved sum of \$496,310.

Agenda Item 3: Po Leung Kuk – Evolving into a Green Organisation (ECF Paper 30/2009-10)

6. Mr. Edward YAU briefed Members that he and the ECF Chairman had met the chairmen and chief executives of six local charities, namely Tung Wah Group of Hospitals (TWGH), Po Leung Kuk (PLK), Pok Oi Hospital, Yan Chai Hospital, Yan Oi Tong and Lok Sin Tong on 24.9.2009, and invited these charities to develop green vision and strategy and to turn themselves into green organisations. During the meeting, the Chairman of TWGH presented his experiences in applying for ECF funding support and development of green strategies and initiatives for the organisation. It was

against this background that PLK had prepared its application to transform itself into a green organisation for ECF's consideration. Mr. Edward YAU said that the extensive service network of local charities such as TWGH and PLK would make them an effective platform to promote the idea of green living.

7. A representative of PLK briefed Members on PLK's green vision of evolving into a green organization and its commitment to educate and engage the public in environmental improvement. PLK would pursue a green approach in delivering its services. Another representative of PLK presented the green action plan of the PLK with the objective to become the pioneer among Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) in environmental awareness and conservation. A series of green initiatives would be implemented under a framework of four strategies:

- (a) Green governance;
- (b) Green education;
- (c) Environmental Management System; and
- (d) Green Construction & Building Management.

In particular, PLK would ride on its two existing camp sites, namely PLK Pak Tam Chung Holiday Camp and the PLK Tai Tong Holiday Camp, to provide a wide range of green activities to enable the community to acquire environmental knowledge in a natural and relaxing environment. To this end, PLK would upgrade facilities at the camp sites by installing wind turbines, photovoltaic systems, solar water heaters, electricity-generating bicycles, food waste composting machines etc. PLK would set up an Environmental Protection Steering Committee which had the overall responsibility of integrating environmental considerations into the decision making process and long-term planning. The Steering Committee would be chaired by the PLK's Chairman and comprise Directors of the Board and senior management. PLK would also create a new post of environmental officer to ensure the effective implementation of the green action plan. As a first step, the Board of Directors had agreed to have paperless meetings with immediate effect.

8. A representative of PLK reassured Members that PLK would continue to achieve its vision of evolving into a green organisation, to

continually engage the public in its effort and to raise environmental awareness in the community in future years. Mr. Edward YAU supported the funding proposal from PLK to transform itself into a green organisation. He remarked that ECF valued partners that would undertake long-term commitment to promote environmental awareness. PLK's green action plan had demonstrated its green vision and its undertaking to assume the responsibility of raising the community awareness and mobilizing its stakeholders to lead a green lifestyle. It would set a good model for other local charities and NGOs. Mr. Edward YAU and Ms Linda CHOY then left the meeting.

9. In response to the suggestion by two Members, two representatives of PLK agreed that a carbon audit for PLK for the coming three years would provide a quantitative basis for assessing the effectiveness of the greening project. PLK would examine the feasibility and practicality of a carbon audit with its professional consultant. Two Members, while noting that a dedicated professional consultant would be engaged for three years, enquired if PLK anticipated any difficulties in carrying out this large-scale 3-year greening plan. A representative of PLK explained that although the PLK's in-house architecture professionals would lead the works initiatives, engagement of a professional consultant would be essential for assisting PLK to refine the scope and types of green initiatives to ensure systematic and cost-effective implementation of the plan. Another representative of PLK added that a separate dedicated environmental consultant for the proposed development of the two campsites into green camps would be much needed as they could advise on the latest technological development in green features to be incorporated in the campsites.

10. Ms Anissa WONG appreciated the need for hiring dedicated environmental consultants in view of the complexity and duration of PLK's greening plan. She added that funding applications for PLK's individual initiatives would be examined in detail by relevant vetting subcommittees. A Member noted that PLK would create a new post of environmental officer and suggested that PLK should consider allocating additional resources to support the newly created post, given the extensiveness of the greening programme. Three Members opined that a comprehensive and intensive education programme would be essential to supplement the infrastructure development of green camps.

11. The Chairman concluded that an approval-in-principle with the ceiling figure of \$31.09 million be given for PLK to undertake initiatives to turn itself into a green organisation through a 3-year programme, whereas funding support for individual initiatives would be assessed separately upon PLK'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 will ensure all proposals to the ECF are processed on a fair and consistent basis. The Committee appreciated PLK's plan of turning the Pak Tam Chung and Tai Tong Holiday Camps into green camps which would offer platforms for the community to acquire environmental knowledge, and looked forward to PLK's commitment to developing the complementary educational programmes so that the two campsites will become exemplary environmental education camps in Hong Kong.

12. Mr. David HO, Mr. Quincy LUI, Ms Grace WU and Mr. Eddie LEUNG left after the discussion.

Agenda Item 4: Public Education Programme for the Policy Framework for the Management of Municipal Solid Waste – “Waste Management Project for Promoting Green Leaders in Tuen Mun District 2010-2011” by Lingnan University (ECF Paper 31/2009-10)

13. Ms Margaret HSIA briefed Members on the paper which summarized the project details recommended by the Waste Management Subcommittee of the Advisory Council on the Environment (WMSC). Lingnan University proposed a one-year education programme which involved a budget of \$901,390. Mr. Vincent TANG supplemented that the WMSC appreciated that the funding application from Lingnan University would promote public engagement because local residents and students would be recruited for promulgation of better solid waste management in their community. The proposed study tour to Taiwan would help broaden the

exposure and horizon of the participants on the prevailing mode of waste management in international dimensions. Two representatives from the Office of Service-Learning of the Lingnan University joined the meeting to explain details of the proposal and answer Members' questions.

14. Mr. Benjamin YUNG commented that the budget on staff cost and the international programme was relatively on the high side and the applicant might consider other more cost effective alternatives. A Member also commented on the cost effectiveness of the proposal as only a limited number of students and participants from the community would directly take part in the programme. A representative stated that there would be intensive staff requirement as the project team would visit every proposed housing estate to recruit participants to the programme. The proposed international programme would bring the participants to experience different waste management practices in places with similar situations in Hong Kong. She pointed out that the participants' behavioural changes might not be obvious within a short period of time but the programme would impress upon the participants how the community would change for a better cause of the environment.

15. A Member questioned on the sustainability of the programme and opined that participation from students in planning and organising the programme was limited. Mr. Patrick LAI and a Member enquired if students from other universities could join the programme as well. The representative indicated that environmental education and waste management were included in the curriculum of community learning arranged by the Office of Service Learning of Lingnan University. The proposed programme would not be a single one-off project. There would be further cooperation with local NGOs on other educational programme on waste management. She agreed with Mr. CHUA that enhanced participation from students in leading and planning the programme would enable the youngsters to have a holistic/realistic view towards the waste problem and thus enhance their commitment to protecting the environment. She considered that the current proposal would be a platform to build up the young peoples' capacity for further development in the coming years. She also welcomed participation of students from other tertiary institutes who were residents in Tuen Mun. Dr. MA and Miss Jennie CHIN left after the discussion.

16. After further deliberation, the Chairman concluded that the proposal was worthwhile of support in principle and the overseas study tour was supported. However, the applicant should revise the proposal with a view to enhancing students' participation in leading and planning the programme. As regards the budget, the applicant should re-examine the overall staff cost with a view to revising the overall budget to around \$700,000. The revised proposal would be circulated to all Members for formal approval. Ms Margaret HSIA left after the discussion.

**Agenda Item 5: Nature Conservation Management Agreement Projects
(ECF Paper 32/2009-10)**

17. Mr. CC LAY and Ms Vivien LI joined the meeting. Mr. Vincent TANG briefed Members on the paper, which summarized the two new applications and evaluation of the work done by the two applicant organisations in the past years. Since the launch of the management agreement scheme in Long Valley, the number of bird species increased from 202 in 2005 to 230 species in 2009, representing a 14% increase. In Fung Yuen Valley, the butterfly species increased from 162 species in 2005 to over 200 species in 2009, which accounted for more than 80% of butterfly species recorded in Hong Kong. Members of the Nature Conservation Subcommittee (NCSC) under the Advisory Council on the Environment (ACE) were consulted and they supported the two proposed projects.

18. The Chairman remarked that the two projects in Long Valley and Fung Yuen Valley had been supported by ECF for almost four years and the task in future should focus on sustainable development in addition to nature conservation. Eco-tourism might be promoted to enhance public awareness on the conservation work done in the two sites. Ms Anissa WONG pointed out that the two projects had produced encouraging results in nature conservation. The increase in the number and diversity of birds and butterflies suggested that management measures were effective in enhancing the conservation value of the two sites. Extension of the conservation project would facilitate landowners to conserve and protect their farmlands from the recent fly-tipping cases and farmland abandonment issues. There was increase in the new project budget because of the enhanced education

programme and increase in the size of the managed areas. The applicant organisations had also proposed new revenue generating measures which would not only reduce the financial reliability on ECF as the source of funding, but also bring economic benefits to the landowner/farmers concerned, thus enhancing their willingness to participate in the conservation of Long Valley and Fung Yuen Valley. Mr. CC LAY added that the two projects had enhanced the biodiversity and ecosystem functions of the areas and raised public and local awareness of nature conservation. The eco-tours, exhibitions and volunteer activities organized at Long Valley attracted over 160,000 visitors. The workshops and butterfly festivals in the past few years promoted public awareness on butterfly conservation and attracted overseas visitors to study butterflies in Fung Yuen Valley as well.

(i) Nature Conservation Management for Long Valley 2010-2012 by the Conservancy Association

19. Representatives from CA and HKBWS joined the meeting to present the achievements of previous projects and features of the new proposal. There would be an increase in the management area by 9.2% in the new proposal. The project aimed at conserving the landscape and biodiversity, particularly avifauna, amphibians and other freshwater wetland dependent species such as Yellow-breasted Bunting (禾花雀) and Chinese Bullfrog (田雞). New elements of revenue generating activities such as eco-tours, night safari tours, traditional farming activities such as paddy fields and harvesting club for public would be pursued so as to enhance the sustainability of the programme. If the new income generating measures proved to be effective, funds required from ECF might be reduced in the long run.

20. Two Members pointed out that publicity of the conservation work in Long Valley should be enhanced so as to raise local awareness on the importance of nature conservation. Additional educational pamphlets, guided eco-tours and thematic websites might be considered to promote the biodiversity and ecological value of Long Valley. In reply to the query from a Member, the representatives explained that eco-tours were arranged on appointment basis so as to control the interference to the avifauna. In response to another Member's question, the representatives stated that training

was provided to some 60 local residents to act as local eco-tour guides and they would further disseminate the messages of conservation to visitors. There would also be cooperation plans with local schools whose students would be invited to practice sustainable agriculture. Two Members enquired if the staff cost could be adjusted downward and if there would be further improvement in the mode of operation of the management agreements in Long Valley. The representatives explained that intensive labour cost was involved in maintaining close liaison with landowners and farmers and in monitoring the latter's work in habitat management. The mode of management agreements might be a short-term arrangement pending on the government's further consideration of the public-private partnership (PPP) option in ecologically important sites under private ownership. The representatives of CA and HKBWS left the conference room after answering Members' questions.

21. After discussion, the Chairman concluded that the Committee endorsed the proposed grant of \$4,590,960 to CA for the two-year management agreements project in Long Valley. The CA and HKBWS should further develop plans in eco-tourism and ecological conservation education programme with a view to enhancing the long term nature conservation in Long Valley.

(ii) Management Agreement on the Private Land with High Conservation Value at Fung Yuen Valley Site of Special Scientific Interest in Tai Po by the Tai Po Environmental Association

22. Prof CHU Lee-man declared interest and left the conference room as he is a member of the Advisory Committee of the proposed project. Representatives from TPEA joined the meeting to present the achievements of previous projects and features of the new proposal. In addition to the habitat management programme and species conservation programme, the TPEA would cooperate with the Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK) and the HKBWS on the plant survey and bird survey respectively. The TPEA also solicited sponsorship from different sources for different activities and media coverage. In response to the Chairman's remarks on project sustainability and enhanced eco-tourism, the representatives stated that the TPEA would further explore the opportunity of sponsorship from the District Council or

private sources and other revenue generating activities such as butterfly club membership, production of souvenirs and additional guided eco-tours so as to enhance the sustainability for the project. In view of the long-term habitat management requirement to maintain the conservation value of the Fung Yuen Valley, the TPEA proposed a 3-year project plan. It would facilitate better programme planning particularly the management agreements signed with the landowners, accumulation of staff experiences and establishment of relationships with overseas visitors and butterfly conservation groups. The representatives of TPEA left the conference room after answering Members' questions.

23. After discussion, the Chairman concluded that the Committee endorsed the proposed grant of \$5,035,876.65 to TPEA for the three-year management agreements project in Fung Yuen Valley. The TPEA should further develop plans in eco-tourism and ecological conservation education programme with a view to enhancing the long term nature conservation in Fung Yuen Valley.

24. Mr. Vincent TANG, Mr. CC LAY and Ms Vivien LI left the meeting after the discussion. Prof CHU Lee-man re-joined the meeting.

Agenda Item 6: Buildings Energy Efficiency Funding Schemes

- (i) Progress Report on the Buildings Energy Efficiency Funding Schemes (BEEFS)
(ECF Paper 35/2009-10)**
- (ii) Manpower Review of the EMSTF's BEEFS Team for the Second and Third Year of the SLA Services
(ECF Paper 33/2009-10)**

25. Miss Katharine CHOI briefed Members on the ECF Paper 35/2009-10 which summarized the total number of applications received and the total amount of funding approved since the launch of the scheme in April 2009. Miss CHOI continued on the proposal for further engagement of EMSTF to provide support for the operation of BEEFS in the coming two

years. Since April 2009, more than 890 applications had been received as at mid-November 2009. With the continuous influx of applications, it was expected that the number of successful applications would exceed by far the capacity of the manpower originally planned. Based on the manpower position in the first-year operation of the schemes, the manpower proposal for the second and third service years of operation of the schemes was drawn up and supported by the Energy Conservation Projects Vetting Subcommittee (ECPVSC) in July 2009.

26. The Chairman concluded that the funding proposal of continuing to engage EMSTF was approved as follows:

- A sum of \$21.477M (\$11.811M in 2010 and \$9.666M in 2011) for the manpower resources to be provided by EMSTF in 2010 and 2011 to support the operation of the schemes; and
- a total of \$2M for publicity purposes and \$1M for contingency uses for 2010 and 2011.

**(iii) Projects recommended under the BEEFS
(ECF Paper 34/2009-10)**

27. Mr. Michael WONG briefed Members on the paper which summarized the recommendations made by the ECPVSC on three energy efficiency projects. The total amount of recommended funding for the three projects was \$10,342,895. In reply to the Chairman's questions on the status of the three housing estates, Ms Anissa WONG explained that they were no longer assets of the Housing Authority nor the Housing Society. Similar to other private residential buildings, funds would be granted on a matching basis if the projects were eventually approved. A Member stated that there was a funding cap of \$500,000 for application involving a single building of energy efficiency project. However, this funding cap per building was not applicable for applications involving more than one building. He opined that the maximum funding of \$500,000 per building should be equally applicable for applications involving one single building or applications involving more than one building. Mr. Benjamin YUNG agreed to the Member's suggestions. Ms Katharine CHOI explained that the ECPVSC had considered various situations in drawing up the funding guidelines. The cap

of \$500,000 per building might discourage energy efficiency measures for podiums and common areas joining more than one buildings together. The three applications being recommended though did not involve energy efficiency installations for common areas, the ECPVSC considered the proposed work would substantially save energy consumption and thus was worthy of support.

28. After deliberation, the Chairman concluded that Mr. CHUA's opinion of setting a ceiling of \$500,000 per building for applications of energy efficiency projects irrespective of the number of buildings per application was generally agreed. The three recommended BEEFS applications were approved subject to a funding cap of \$500,000 per building. The ECPVSC might further review the funding principles and guidelines to uphold the original intention of encouraging energy efficiency installations in common areas.

29. Ms Katharine CHOI, Mr. Kent FUNG and Mr. Michael WONG left the meeting after the discussion.

Agenda Item 7: Public Engagement Campaign against Climate Change by the Environmental Campaign Committee (ECF Paper 36/2009-10)

30. Miss Eunice CHAN briefed Members on the funding proposal by the Environmental Campaign Committee (ECC) to launch a campaign against climate change in 2010 and 2011 with a budget of \$7,808,000. The campaign would comprise:

- Public seminars cum exhibitions; and school talks cum roving exhibitions on climate change alarm led by Dr Rebecca Lee of the Polar Museum Foundation, and in collaboration with the Hong Kong Observatory and the Hong Kong Science Museum;
- Multiplier training for secondary school teachers on climate change organized by the World Wide Fund for Nature Hong Kong, and to be jointly funded with the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Ltd.;
- Production and Launch of DVDs on Climate Change for World

Environment Day 2010 in collaboration with the Polar Museum Foundation;
and

- Implementing a Climate FOOTPRINT Books Project, in collaboration with Climate Group and Roadshow, with a view to publishing four books on carbon reduction in time for the 2010 Book Fair targeting at four reader groups, namely the working population, housewives, SMEs and students respectively. The Climate Group and Roadshow would be engaged as strategic partners, with Climate Group being the coordinator to consolidate contributions from other suitable stakeholders in developing the contents for the books and Roadshow providing publicity platforms of wide coverage and advice on the market positioning of the books .

31. Ms Betty CHEUNG supplemented that the sum \$7,808,000 was the estimated budget ceiling for the campaign and details for each component would be worked out in due course. The ECC endorsed the proposal and planned to set up designated working groups to work out the details and monitor the progress of the campaign. Two Members considered the proposed project scope appropriate but remarked that further details such as possible revenue from open sale of the books should be reported to the Committee once available. Ms Anissa WONG asked why partnering with a green group instead of acquiring a service was adopted and how the partner was decided. Ms Betty CHEUNG explained that the ECC secretariat had explored with various publishers for their interest, who however replied negatively to the proposed development of four books from scratch. The ECC secretariat then considered the alternative approach of partnering with a green group to develop the book contents first and during the process, the Climate Group was considered to be a competent partner who could take up the coordinator role for different stakeholders in consolidating the book contents. The ECC discussed and agreed to the proposed arrangement and the budget ceiling of \$7,808,000 for the campaign at the meeting held on 1.12.2009.

32. The Chairman concluded that the Committee endorsed the proposed budget ceiling of \$7,808,000 to support the ECC public engagement campaign against climate change to be held in 2010-11 as stipulated in the ECF Paper 36/2009-10.

Agenda Item 8: A Review on the Operation of the ECF Funding Support for Research Projects (ECF Paper 37/2009-10)

33. Ms Winifred CHAN reported the paper which summarised the recommendations on vetting ECF research projects endorsed by the Research Projects Vetting Subcommittee:

- priority should be given to projects or studies whose outcome would have potential for general application in the fields concerned to enhance their performance in environmental protection;
- priority research themes would be set on a bi-yearly basis so as to focus resources to build knowledge and talents on areas of priority;
- vetting and monitoring procedures for projects of large value should be suitably stringent and those for small-scale projects should be streamlined; and
- the proposed changes would be implemented on 1.4.2010 so that applications received and being processed would not be subject to the new mechanism so as to ensure smooth operation and fair treatment.

Agenda Item 9: Date of Next Meeting

34. Members noted that the next meeting was tentatively scheduled for 18 March 2010. The Secretariat would confirm with Members the meeting date nearer the time.

35. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 6:15 p.m.

Secretariat, Environment and Conservation Fund Committee
February 2010