

MINUTES of the Environment Committee Meeting held on 6 July 2009 at 11:00 am in the Chamber Boardroom.

Chairman

Mr Oscar Chow Chevalier International Holdings Ltd

Vice Chairmen

Mr Cary Chan Swire Properties Ltd
Dr Glenn Frommer MTR Corporation

Members

Mr Martin Putnam Airport Authority Hong Kong
Mr Don Johnston Anderson Asia (Holdings) Limited
Mr Steve Wong BillionGroup Technologies Ltd
Dr Andrew Thomson Business Environment Council
Dr Mark Watson Cathay Pacific Airways Ltd
Dr Jeanne Ng CLP Holdings Ltd
Mr Dominic Yin EESCO P2E2 Hong Kong Ltd
Mr Nelson Yip EP Power Co. Ltd.
Mr Kim Teck Neo ExxonMobile Energy Ltd
Ms Shirlee May Algire Gammon Construction Ltd
Dr Thomas Tang Global Institute for Tomorrow
Mr Hilton Cheong-Leen H Cheong-Leen & Co (HK) Ltd
Mrs Maria Cheung Hing Yu Metal Works Ltd
Ms Teresa Au Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Ltd
Mr Ernest Chan Hongkong International Theme Parks Ltd
Mr Marc Jaku (via Mr Christopher Tung) Mallesons Stephen Jaques
Mr Christopher Ho PricewaterhouseCoopers Limited
Ms Petra Loho Turnkey Consulting Ltd

Chamber Executive

Mr Alex Fong Hong Kong General Chamber of Commerce
Mr Thinex Shek (Secretary) Hong Kong General Chamber of Commerce

Apologies

Prof Bill Barron	Mr Gerald Cheuk	Mr Sandy Edge	Mr Peter Fung
Mr Michael Gross	Mr Glenn Haley	Mr Derek Ho	Mr John H.M. Ho
Mr Dodie Hung	Dr Andrew Jackson	Mr Aung Khine	Mr Albert Lam
Ms Angel Mo	Dr Johannes Neumann	Mr Alex Newbigging	Mr David R. Rees
Ms Helen Roeth	Mr Jean Eric Salata	Mr Markus Shaw	Mr K L Tsang
Ms Alison Wong	Mr Philip Yim		

The Chairman welcomed new members, who were Dr Mark Watson of Cathay Pacific Airways Ltd, Mr Ernest Chan of Hongkong International Theme Parks Ltd, and Ms Petra Loho of Turnkey Consulting Ltd

1. Confirmation of Minutes

Minutes of the Committee meeting held on 22 April 2009 were confirmed and signed.

2. Matters Arising

Members at the last meeting expressed interest in knowing the latest development of two Government's initiatives. In regard to the Government's studies on light nuisance, the Secretariat informed members that the Environment Bureau had recently commissioned the studies, and it was expected that the results would be released by end 2009. The Bureau had also been finalizing the legislative proposal of the Mandatory Implementation of Building Energy Codes, of which members would be invited to a briefing seminar to be held on 19 August 2009.

3. Committee Activities and Initiatives

3.1 The Secretary reminded members that an air pollution policy paper was developed and submitted to the Government by the Environment Committee last year. Having discussed with the Committee's leadership, the Secretariat had updated the latest status of the 43 recommendations and identified a number of issues to be followed up, covering a wide range of topics from urban planning to green building, transport, business and lifestyle. A series of project ideas was tabled, which would be initiated under an "EcoSmart" banner after the summer.

3.2 Members generally welcomed the project initiatives. In particular to climate change issues, they were interested in knowing more about government's preparation for the Copenhagen Conference, as well as the implications of climate agreements for Hong Kong businesses. The Secretary would sound out the possibility and appropriate timing of the Government to speak to the Chamber. The Chamber should also play a supporting role to the International Conference on Climate Change to be held in October this year.

4. Election of Chairman and Vice Chairmen

Prior to the election, the Chamber CEO Mr Alex Fong explained the Committee's terms of reference (TOR) and invited views from members on restructuring the Environment Committee.

Committee Restructuring

4.1 Mr Fong told members that the Secretariat had taken the opportunity to review the TOR of the Environment Committee in line with an overall review of the operations of the Chamber committees. The current TOR of the Environment Committee was to study and advise the Chamber on environmental issues, covering sustainable growth, conservation, environmental auditing, pollution control, waste recycling, energy efficiency, environmental technology, ozone depletion, and such other subjects as may arise from time to time.

- 4.2 It was considered that the current TOR was still largely relevant, but one weak link noted was that it was not related to sustainable development. Accordingly, it was proposed that the Environment Committee should be re-named as the Environment and Sustainability Committee. The role of the Committee would be to advise the General Committee and the Secretariat on issues pertinent to the environment and the relationship between economy, environment and society. Mr Fong invited views from members.
- 4.3 Mr Hilton Cheong-Leen said that the Committee could focus on sustainability issues with environment matters as the umbrella, so that the TOR would not spread out too thin, and it would be important to educate members on the relationship between business and sustainable development. Mr Cary Chan also believed that the concept of sustainable development was still abstract to many businesses, so there would be a need to spread the knowledge to the general membership.
- 4.4 Mr Alex Fong told members that the Chamber had invited Mr Bernard Chan, Chairman of the Council for Sustainable Development to speak on government's initiatives towards sustainability, with a focus on the current public engagement exercise on the design of built environment. It would be the first event to kick off the EcoSmart, which would build up a series of activities towards the Copenhagen Conference.
- 4.5 The Chairman felt that the Committee should not be too specific on particular environment and sustainability related issues, given the general nature of the Chamber membership. Mr Alex Fong added that the Chamber had been driving committees' integration by projects with issues of common concern, for examples, the Real Estate and Infrastructure Committee would play a role in the forthcoming EcoSmart event with Mr Bernard Chan. Dr Glenn Frommer reminded members that the last Joint Environment/Economic Policy Committees meeting with Secretary for the Environment on the new air quality objectives had demonstrated the effectiveness of gathering input from both environmental and economic perspectives.
- 4.6 Dr Andrew Thomson believed that the Committee should aim at capacity building, with Committee members as a resources pool to be involved to drive Chamber initiatives forward and more in-depth. Dr Thomas Tang advised the Chamber to leverage on the expertise of Committee members to promote the concept of sustainability to the general membership. Mr Cary Chan also advised to leverage on the strengths of other organizations in order not to duplicate the efforts.
- 4.7 Members generally supported the changes and their views were noted by the Secretariat. Committee's TOR would be updated in line with the Chamber's Guidelines for All Committees. Mr Alex Fong believed that the current Committee leadership had been strong in environmental aspects, with a chairman and two vice chairmen heading for issues on environmental policies, green buildings and transports. Following the expansion of Committee's scope, there might be a need for an additional vice chairman to look after sustainability issues.

Election of Chairman and Vice Chairmen

- 4.8 The Secretary briefed members that it had been a customary practice of the Chamber to elect or re-elect committees' chairmen and vice chairmen at the first meeting after the Chamber AGM. According to the Chamber Guidelines, Mr Oscar Chow was eligible to be re-elected to serve on the Committee for the third year.
- 4.9 Mr Cary Chan nominated Mr Oscar Chow to be the Chairman. Dr Glenn Frommer seconded and members unanimously agreed. Mr Oscar Chow was re-elected as the Chairman of the Environment and Sustainability Committee.
- 4.10 The Chairman nominated Mr Cary Chan and Dr Glenn Frommer, as well as Ms Teresa Au to be the Vice Chairmen. Dr Andrew Thomson seconded and members unanimously agreed. Mr Cary Chan and Dr Glenn Frommer were re-elected, and Ms Teresa Au was elected as the Vice Chairmen of the Environment and Sustainability Committee.

5. A.O.B.

- 5.1 Mr Dominic Yin told members that the Hong Kong Association of Energy Service Companies has submitted a letter to Secretary for the Environment with suggestions to enhance the building energy funding scheme.

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 11:55 am.

Confirmed by

Secretary
13 July 2009

Chairman