

MINUTES of the Environment Committee Meeting held on 30 September 2009 at 4:00 pm in the Chamber Boardroom.

Chairman

Mr Oscar Chow Chevalier International Holdings Ltd

Vice Chairman

Dr Glenn Frommer MTR Corporation
Mr Cary Chan Swire Properties Ltd

Members

Mr Steve Wong BillionGroup Technologies Ltd
Mr Derek Ho BMT Asia Pacific Ltd
Dr Jeanne Ng CLP Holdings Ltd
Ms Brigit Fung (via Ms Helen Roeth) CSR Asia Ltd
Mr Kim Teck Neo ExxonMobile Energy Ltd
Ms Shirlee May Algire Gammon Construction Ltd
Mr Aung Khine Green Island Cement (Holdings) Limited
Mr Hilton Cheong-Leen H Cheong-Leen & Co (HK) Ltd
Mr John H.M. Ho Hong Kong & China Gas Company Limited
Mr K L Tsang Hong Kong Productivity Council
Prof Bill Barron Hong Kong University of Science and Technology
Mr Penn Yeung (via Mr Alex Newbigging) Jardine Engineering Corporation Ltd
Mr Christopher Ho PricewaterhouseCoopers Limited
Ms Petra Loho Turnkey Consulting Ltd

Chamber Executive

Mr Alex Fong CEO
Mr Adrian Cheung Senior Director, Strategy and Research
Mr Thinex Shek (Secretary) Hong Kong General Chamber of Commerce

Absence

Ms Teresa Au	Mr Ernest Chan	Mrs Maria Cheung	Mr Gerald Cheuk
Mr Sandy Edge	Mr Peter Fung	Mr Michael Gross	Mr Glenn Haley
Mr Dodie Hung	Dr Andrew Jackson	Mr Don Johnston	Mr Albert Lam
Ms Angel Mo	Dr Johannes Neumann	Mr Martin Putnam	Mr David Rees
Mr Jean Eric Salata	Mr Markus Shaw	Dr Andrew Thomson	Mr Christopher Tung
Dr Mark Watson	Ms Alison Wong	Mr Philip Yim	Mr Dominic Yin
Mr Nelson Yip			

The Chairman welcomed Mr Adrian Cheung, the new Chamber Senior Director for Strategy and Research, on board. Chamber CEO Mr Alex Fong introduced Mr Adrian Cheung to members, who had been engaged in various business fields with professional knowledge in stakeholder's management. Building on the 43 policy recommendations of the Air Quality submission paper, Mr Cheung would help the Chamber develop concrete environmental projects. He looked forward to working with members on environmental issues.

1. Confirmation of Minutes

Minutes of the Committee meeting held on 6 July 2009 were confirmed and signed.

2. Matters Arising

Following the restructuring of Chamber Committees, the Environment Committee was renamed as the Environment and Sustainability Committee to cover issues and areas pertinent to sustainability and its integration with environmental, economic and social developments in Hong Kong. Committee's terms of reference were revised accordingly.

Members endorsed the revisions of the terms of reference.

3. Committee's Activities

3.1 The Secretary reported that the Committee had launched the EcoSmart series, with six events organised in September and October covering topics such as sustainable city, business, building, transport and lifestyle. He welcomed members to suggest any timely topics.

3.2 The Chairman told members that he moderated one of the EcoSmart forums on 25 September, with Secretary for the Environment speaking on the public consultation on air quality objectives review. Mr Yau proposed 19 management measures as one package to tackle air pollution, which could be a challenge to achieve a general consensus.

3.3 Ms Petra Loho supported the Chamber to organise more environmental events with business focus, and she mentioned the example of an EcoSmart roundtable with JW Marriott Hotel and Swire Beverages sharing corporate experience in engaging employees on adopting a low-carbon lifestyle.

3.4 Mr K L Tsang thought that the promotion of six industries, including environmental services, would be one of the highlights of the Policy Address. Suitable environmental topics could then be identified for discussion. Dr Jeanne Ng and members believed that the Policy Address would also reflect the opportunities and challenges arising from the economic growth in China, particularly the increasing environmental policy controls on manufacturing sector.

3.5 Mr Alex Fong told members that the Chamber had formed a green economy working group to look into opportunities for environmental businesses in the Pearl River Delta region. Another working group for testing and certification industry was also formed after the Task Force on Economic Challenges (TFEC) recommended the six industries. As members generally believed that the Government was aiming at developing a linkage between Hong Kong businesses with the 12th Five Year Plan, Mr Fong proposed and members agreed

to invite Secretary for the Environment or his representative to give a briefing on promoting environmental businesses after the Policy Address.

(Action: Secretariat)

- 3.6 Although the Environment Bureau was responsible for regulatory regime, members generally felt that it should also be the leading bureau to promote environmental industry. Members also suggested other speakers for future speaking events if appropriate.
- 3.7 Dr Glenn Frommer thought that the Committee could be more proactive by gathering views from members on what would be needed from the Government to develop environmental businesses, so as to help the Government formulate policy templates for the new economic structure. Such views should be measurable and achievable with specific targets, in line with the EcoSmart principle. Prof Bill Barron echoed, followed by Mr Hilton Cheong-Leen who suggested the Chamber to focus on some major issues that had been continuously of concerns to members.
- 3.8 Mr Alex Fong said he was told by members of the Chamber Working Group for Testing and Certification Industry that the industry had apparently not been engaged in any consultation before the TFEC announced that the industry would be a priority area, so there might not be enough solid ideas for promoting the testing and certification sector.
- 3.9 Mr Alex Fong told members that the Chamber had organized an annual Hong Kong Business Summit last year, in form of an internal retreat with about 150 active members taking part to express their views on the business agenda. The Chamber's submission to the Chief Executive's Policy Address was then developed from the framework prescribed by the "15 Christmas Trees" identified in the summit. To take this process further, it was proposed that the programme for Business Summit 2009 would straddle a 12-month period, starting with EcoSmart series and followed by other quarterly modules on specific business areas.
- 3.10 Members then went into a discussion of the forthcoming Copenhagen Conference. Mr Alex Fong recalled that the Chamber Chairman had issued a message in the Bulletin to call for greater engagement of businesses in the negotiations among governments. The Chamber had invited Secretary for the Environment to speak on HKSAR Government's preparation for the Conference, but we had not received any response yet.
- 3.11 Dr Jeanne Ng believed that there would be some principles to be agreed by governments to tackle climate change. Mr Hilton Cheong-Leen was interested in knowing the HKSAR policy initiatives of developing a low carbon economy. Prof Bill Barron believed that this could be achieved by regulatory control and carbon pricing. He thought that the HKSAR would focus its efforts on energy conservation of buildings.
- 3.12 Members noted that the Government would participate in the Copenhagen Conference as a member of the Chinese delegation, so it would be difficult for Secretary for the Environment to speak on behalf of the Chinese authorities. It

was generally agreed that the Committee should wait and see the outcomes of the Policy Address and the Copenhagen Conference, then identify specific topics to be pursued.

4. A.O.B.

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 5:30 pm.

Confirmed by

Secretary
20 October 2009

Chairman