

MINUTES of the meeting of the Hong Kong Business Coalition on the Environment (BCE) held on 17 October 2008 at 4:00 pm in the Hong Kong General Chamber of Commerce.

Chairman/Convenor

Jens-Erik Olsen Danish Chamber of Commerce Hong Kong

Members

Helen Cochrane Australian Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong
Andrew Thomson Business Environment Council
Fergus O'Rorke Canadian Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong
Alexander de Neree Dutch Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong
Wolfgang Ehman German Chamber of Industry & Commerce HK, S China, Vietnam
Glenn Frommer Hong Kong General Chamber of Commerce
Merrin Pearse New Zealand Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong
Peter Chow Singapore Chamber of Commerce (Hong Kong)
Olevia Yim US & Foreign Comm. Service, American Consulate General HK

Meeting Secretary

Thinex Shek Hong Kong General Chamber of Commerce

The Secretary informed BCE members that Dr W K Chan, Senior Director of the Hong Kong General Chamber of Commerce passed away on 8 October 2008 during his vacation in Spain. Dr W K Chan had made substantial contributions to the work of BCE. Members were invited to sign a Book of Condolence in HKGCC's head office, and they were welcome to make contribution to a special "WK Chan's Children Education Fund" for his two young daughters to facilitate their formal studies.

The Chairman called upon members to observe a minute of silence to condole Dr W K Chan.

1. Confirmation of Minutes

Minutes of the BCE meeting held on 6 December 2007 were confirmed and signed.

2. Discussion on Joint BCE Luncheon with the Secretary for the Environment

- 2.1 The Chairman informed members that some 10 BCE organizations had agreed to co-host a joint luncheon with the Secretary for the Environment on 24 November 2008. A summary of key environmental initiatives in the Policy Address was tabled for discussion. Members were invited to suggest speaking points for the Secretary.
- 2.2 The Chairman referred to the 14th Green China Forum held on 12 September 2008, at which Mr Pan Yue, Vice Minister of the Ministry of Environmental Protection of China had given a comprehensive plan to develop a green PRD. He was interested

to look into the concrete action plans, and how the HKSAR Government could operate in coordination with the Guangdong Government.

- 2.4 The Chairman was also concerned of the frequent policy changes and the launch of new regulations in the PRD recently, affecting the operation of factories. He was echoed by Dr Andrew Thomson and Mr Peter Wong, who called for engaging businesses in the legislation process. Mr Fergus O'Rorke believed that the Guangdong Government could make use of foreign experience of green business and green trade to help policy formulation and implementation.
- 2.5 Dr Andrew Thomson was interested in finding business opportunities in PRD, i.e. how to identify the needs of PRD and in what areas Hong Kong and foreign enterprises could contribute green solutions. The Chairman and Mr Wolfgang Ehman added that it would be essential to acquire supports from both governments in providing, for examples, IPR protection and information network.
- 2.6 During the discussion, members generally showed interest in knowing more about how the Secretary for the Environment put forth the environment initiatives, particularly in which areas businesses could contribute towards developing a low carbon economy and a green PRD. Some proposed speaking points were summarized as follows:
 - 2.61 Partnering with Hong Kong and foreign enterprises in developing a green economy and green PRD, i.e.
 - HKSAR Government's role in facilitating environmental technology transfer to Hong Kong and the PRD, i.e. CDM projects and joint ventures with Hong Kong and Mainland enterprises.
 - Participation of foreign enterprises in the \$93 million Cleaner Production Partnership Program, i.e. demonstration projects, consultancy services.
 - 2.62 Supporting Hong Kong and foreign enterprises across the border, i.e.
 - Facilitation of information exchange and interaction between Hong Kong and Guangdong businesses, so that Hong Kong and foreign enterprises could help source sustainable solutions to fit the needs of Guangdong.
 - Assistance to Hong Kong and foreign enterprises investing in PRD, i.e. contacts in Guangdong Government to resolve business issues such as IPR protection, disputes etc.
 - 2.63 Engaging Hong Kong and foreign enterprises in the process of developing a green PRD, i.e.
 - Engagement of Hong Kong and foreign investors in the Hong Kong/Guangdong co-operation mechanism, so that opinions could be widely sought through consultation before launching new regulations.
- 2.6 The Secretary would forward members' views to the Environment Bureau and prepare a flyer template for members to circulate.

3. BCE Update

3.1 The Secretary reported that six companies had been certified for their compliance with the Clean Air Charter. About 10 companies were in the process of application and assessment. Dr Andrew Thomson told members that the Certification Scheme was an on-going initiative, and through word-of-mouth, he hoped to attract more companies to take part in the exercise.

3.2 Members shared their recent environmental initiatives and works, including:

- A Dutch company was just licensed to build bio-fuel facilities in Hong Kong and it had applied for a license in Zhuhai
- The US & Foreign Commercial Service hosted an information counter featuring energy efficiency and emissions reduction at the Eco Expo Asia - International Trade Fair on Environmental Protection held on 28-31 October.
- The German Chamber launched the Econet China to promote green business in Mainland, Hong Kong and Taiwan and sought opportunities in cleaner production, waste management and incineration.
- The Danish Consulate organized a Climate Conference on 27 October 2008 with the Danish Assistant Minister for the Environment as the speaker and representatives from water and air quality industries.
- The Hong Kong General Chamber of Commerce had been working with the Climate Change Business Forum of the Business Environment Council (BEC) to conduct a research on the issues of climate change.
- The BEC had been formalizing the efforts on green buildings, and working on the some projects such as the Hong Kong Awards for Industries: Environmental Performance, and the Hong Kong Awards for Environmental Excellence.
- The Australian Chamber had been very active in the Green Forum and bringing in knowledge of green building.
- The Canadian Chamber would hatch up an Environmental Master Class program to bring in Canadian expertise through electronic means. It was particularly interested in the fields of green building and green construction, as well as waste management technologies such as incineration.

3.2 Members were generally interested in seeking opportunities arising from the Policy Address. The Chairman said that the BCE would serve a platform to open dialogue between the Government and environmental solution providers. The BCE would discuss how to proceed further at the next meeting.

4. A.O.B.

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

Confirmed by

Secretary
13 November 2008

Chairman