



**MINUTES** of the meeting of the Hong Kong Business Coalition on the Environment (BCE) held on 18 January 2010 at 10:00 am in the Hong Kong General Chamber of Commerce.

**Chairman/Convenor**

Jens-Erik Olsen                      Danish Chamber of Commerce Hong Kong

**Members**

Douglas Woodring	American Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong
Deborah Biber	Australian Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong
Christian Hannes Schierer	Austrian Trade Commission in Hong Kong
Fergus O'Rorke	Canadian Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong
Wilhelm Brauner	European Chamber of Commerce
Catherine Pielawa-ko	French Chamber of Commerce & Industry in Hong Kong
Adrian Cheung	Hong Kong General Chamber of Commerce
Mary Lee	Spanish Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong
Eva Karlberg	Swedish Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong

**Meeting Secretary**

Thinex Shek                              Hong Kong General Chamber of Commerce

The Chairman welcomed all members at the meeting and said that the BCE had not met for a period of time since the pass away of Dr W K Chan. He introduced Mr Adrian Cheung to members, the new Senior Director for Research and Strategy of the Hong Kong General Chamber of Commerce, who took over Dr W K Chan's position.

**1. Confirmation of Minutes**

Minutes of the BCE meeting held on 17 October 2008 were confirmed and signed.

**2. BCE Statement on HKSAR's Climate Action**

- 2.1 The Chairman told members that there was a substantial amount of interest among various chambers and organizations in organising post-Copenhagen events. Following coordination, the BCE and the InterCham jointly organised a breakfast meeting and panel discussion on 28 January 2010 together with the Civic Exchange, with a specific theme on "What's Next for Business After COP15". He invited BCE members to take part in the joint conference.
- 2.2 Mr Adrian Cheung elaborated that the breakfast conference was developed from a debriefing nature to become a more action oriented function, aiming to explore what Hong Kong could do after the COP15. Through the Civic Exchange, the BCE invited Mr Simon Reddy, Executive Director of C40 Large Cities Climate Leadership Group to speak on the way forward for global efforts in managing climate change, and Dr Trevor Ng, Sustainable Building Design Consultant of Ove

Arup and Partners to present a study on modeling carbon reduction scenarios. A panel discussion was held with Ms Christine Loh of Civic Exchange as the moderator, as well as Dr Jeanne Ng of CLP, Dr Glenn Frommer of MTR Corporation and Mr Sandy Edge of Woods Bagot Asia as panelists. Mr Cheung also kept members informed that the Civic Exchange would organise a major conference with leaders of C40 cities coming to Hong Kong in November, which had been supported by the Government.

- 2.3 The Chairman thanked the European Chamber for sponsoring the podcast conducted by the European Academy of Business in Society, a Brussels based NGO with over 4,000 academic institutions and businesses in membership. The invitation flyer was updated to acknowledge the sponsorship for the breakfast conference on 28 January. It was also agreed that the podcast was made available for members of BCE chambers.
- 2.4 Mr Wilhelm Brauner told members that the European Chamber had been in the process of establishing a business council on the environment.
- 2.5 Despite the lack of a binding global carbon framework at COP15, the BCE hoped to forge common understanding and unite supporters in the call for actions by the HKSAR Government and stakeholders. A joint statement drafted by the Secretariat was circulated prior to the meeting, which urged the Government to set concrete targets to reduce carbon emissions and benchmark against the best practices of other metropolitan cities in developed countries. The statement also called for strong leadership and close engagement with the business community.
- 2.6 The Chairman sought further input from members, who suggested incorporating the following messages into the statement:
  - 2.61 To advocacy of a whole government approach and closer integration within the government.
  - 2.62 To involve business as part of the solution, requiring government's direction towards climate change issues.
  - 2.63 To facilitate the development of financial tools by the banking and finance sector for carbon reduction projects and other business development.
  - 2.64 To emphasize Hong Kong as a place for business with new opportunities created by carbon reduction efforts, as well as to develop Hong Kong as a leading clean city in China.
  - 2.65 To cover other greenhouse gases in the paper.
  - 2.67 To benchmark against standards and best practices for being recognized as a world city to develop a low carbon economy.
- 2.7 Members also shared some thoughts on policies implementation, including:
  - 2.71 The latest development of environmental initiatives in the Policy Addresses.

- 2.72 The recent trend of promoting co-benefits in reducing both carbon emissions and air pollutants.
  - 2.73 The use of existing platform with international chambers to contribute foreign experience, particularly the promotion of clean energy by bringing in foreign advanced technologies.
  - 2.74 Continual integration with the Pearl River Delta in implementing environmental measures, and closer linkage with the China's Five-Year-Plan.
- 2.7 Members expressed interest in knowing the legal aspects of the Scheme of Control, which could be a subject for discussion at the next BCE meeting to help members understand the technical details.
- 2.8 It was agreed by members to mandate BCE's initiative of issuing the Joint Statement on 28 January 2010. A revised statement was circulated to seek endorsement.

### **3. BCE Update**

- 3.1 The Sustainable Development Committee of the Australian Chamber would have a change of its leadership.
- 3.2 The Swedish Chamber had injected new life into its Environmental Committee, and it had been seeking the new areas of interest.
- 3.3 The American Chamber was interested in pursuing the subject of roadside pollution, and exploring the possibility of collaboration with Arup to come up recommendations to the Government.
- 3.4 The HKGCC was in the process of drafting a submission for the Budget, urging concrete action of the Government to deal with roadside pollution by buses. It could be in a form of subsidies to retrofit the bus fleet, rather than a social cost to be borne by the passengers.

### **4. A.O.B**

The Secretariat would schedule a follow-up meeting after the Chinese New Year.

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 11:30 am.

Confirmed by

Secretary  
8 February 2010

Chairman