

**Summary of the views expressed at
the Ninth Meeting of the Executive Committee
of the Commission on Strategic Development
held on 16 April 2007**

The Chairman welcomed Members to the meeting.

Matters Arising from the Last Meeting

2. The Chairman reported that the Secretariat had summarized Members' views on "Policies and Schemes for Attracting Mainland and Overseas Talents" and referred them to relevant government bureaux and departments for consideration.

**Progress of Work of Other Committees of the Commission
(Paper Ref: CSD/EC/3/2007)**

3. Referring to the discussion of the Committee on Governance and Political Development on the possible models for selecting the Chief Executive and forming the Legislative Council by universal suffrage, a Member raised that the Government should include the proposed models from different parties, including the proposal put forward by some 21 Legislative Council Members, in the Green Paper for public consultation. The Government should also avoid putting forward a proposed model with no room for further negotiation and amendments as in the case of the 2007/08 reform package.

4. Some Members stated that the design of the political models should comply with the Basic Law, i.e. the principle of "gradual and orderly progress" and the requirement that a candidate winning the Chief Executive election must be appointed, in a substantive manner, by the Central People's Government before assuming office. A Member suggested that the Nominating Committee should nominate two candidates for the Chief Executive election who would then be elected by universal suffrage.

5. The Chairman reiterated the importance for different sectors of the community to adopt a conciliatory and inclusive attitude to work out a mutually acceptable solution for selecting the Chief Executive and forming the Legislative Council by universal suffrage. In response to a Member's

enquiry, the Chairman indicated that the Government planned to publish a Green Paper on constitutional development in mid-2007 on the basis of the discussions of the Commission on Strategic Development. A public consultation for three months would be launched. The Green Paper would set out different options on possible models for electing the Chief Executive and forming the Legislative Council.

Maintaining a Quality Environment for Hong Kong (Paper Ref: CSD/EC/4/2007)

6. The Chairman highlighted that the Government was aware of the community's aspiration for a quality environment which would directly affect the quality of living as well as the international competitiveness of Hong Kong. The Government was taking actions resolutely to improve the environment, in particular on air quality, having regard to the interests of stakeholders, the likely support of the legislature, and the co-operation of the Mainland authorities as appropriate. It was, however, recognised that some of the expected positive results of the actions might not be easily visible to the public and would take some time to materialise. He appealed to Members to consider this issue from a strategic perspective and to advise on what further actions the Government and the community should take to enhance the quality environment for Hong Kong.

7. The Permanent Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works (Environment) introduced the paper. Members' views were summarized in the following paragraphs.

General

8. Members expressed their appreciation of the Government's efforts devoted to maintaining a quality environment for Hong Kong. They agreed that as this was a multi-faceted subject, it would be essential to adopt a strategy to mobilise joint efforts of different sectors and political parties to achieve a quality environment for the whole community.

9. A number of Members emphasized the importance of strengthening public education through school curriculum and mass media to arouse public awareness on environmental protection and sustainable development. This would also increase public support in building up environmentally friendly life-style and practices, e.g. reuse and recycle materials, reduce domestic wastes, and economise daily electricity and

water consumption. Publicity should also be raised in promoting corporate social responsibilities in maintaining a quality environment. A Member also underlined the important role of District Councils in building up community support in this regard.

10. A few Members considered that legislation was an effective way to deter activities that would adversely affect the environment. They considered that the general public would support such legislative efforts by the Government. Other Members commented that the promotion of a vibrant cultural environment and development of a high quality urban environment were also important parts of a quality living environment that should not be overlooked.

Air Quality

11. A Member from a major bus operator background commented that they had already adopted a series of environmentally friendly measures to minimize air pollution. Some of their measures were of the highest standard in the world such as the adoption of Euro III or IV engine and very low-sulphur content diesel fuel for their fleet. He, however, pointed out that some proposed measures such as rationalisation of under-utilised bus routings which could have produced considerable positive environmental effect was unfortunately strongly resisted at district level. Also, the bus-bus interchange scheme to enhance the bus utilisation rate was also found not widely supported by the passengers.

12. A Member suggested that the Government should re-consider the Democratic Party's proposal on building an integrated pedestrian-footbridge network and to provide an environmentally friendly shuttle bus service between Sheung Wan and Causeway Bay supported by a major transport interchange set up at a convenient location(s). Whilst it was noted that land availability was a major issue to be overcome, the proposal seemed to have a strong support from other political parties. He was optimistic that the proposal could be launched successfully and be welcomed by the general public. A few Members also supported the concept of providing shuttle bus service from an environmental point of view.

Waste Management

13. A Member supported the establishment of the EcoPark as a means to promote recycling business in Hong Kong. The business would also help creating job opportunity for low-skill workers at district level. In this respect, however, it was pointed out that the current Government land policy was not very supportive to the industry. For instance, the Government had recently announced the resumption of a cargo handling site in Kwun Tong which had been used by local companies to export used paper to overseas for recycling purposes. Taiwan's experience in promoting community organisations and the general public participation in recycling domestic waste was noteworthy.

Use of Energy

14. A Member noted that over 90% of the local sulphur dioxide emissions in Hong Kong were caused by the local power stations. It was therefore suggested that the general public should be motivated to reduce electricity consumption by introducing a progressive fee-charging mechanism on electricity consumption. Another Member drew members' attention to the air pollution caused by the local vessels and the ocean-going vessels using low quality fuel within the Hong Kong waters.

15. In addition, a number of Members remarked that other forms of renewable energy should be investigated as a long-term solution to the pollution problem. At present, only a tiny portion of power used in Hong Kong was generated by renewable energy. A Member further suggested exploring the feasibility of utilising Guangdong's nuclear energy for Hong Kong's usage as a long-term option.

16. The Secretary for Environment, Transport and Works supplemented that the local electricity power stations had implemented a series of measures to reduce sulphur content in their emission. Relevant measures included adoption of low-sulphur fuel and de-sulphur installation.

17. The Chairman made the following remarks:

- (a) Members in general agreed with the Government to take determined actions and measures to enhance Hong Kong's quality of environment, in particular on air quality. This was one of the most important agenda for the well being of our

community as well as sustaining our international competitiveness. They supported the Government to mobilise the community and different political parties to take concerted actions to improve the environment;

- (b) Members also recognised the complexities of maintaining a quality environment which encompassed a host of issues and would require co-operation with our neighbouring local authorities and the factories in the Pearl River Delta. The feasibility of implementing any improvement measure had to be balanced against its cost-effectiveness and affordability to the whole community;
- (c) Many Members had a shared view that the Government should strengthen the publicity work on Government's efforts in improving the quality of environment. Public education was also necessary to build up community awareness of sustainable development and their long-term support to improve the environment;
- (d) Efforts should be made to achieve more visible results such as on the "Action Blue Sky" campaign so that the public might notice the success of environmental improvement. In this respect, it would be necessary to reduce the particulate emissions from the Pearl River Delta region and from the local electricity power plants. The expiration of the current Scheme of Control Agreement between local power stations and the Government in 2008 was an important opportunity for the Government to review the energy supply as well as to stipulate the required environmental standards for the local power stations;
- (e) On specific measures, individual Members had also highlighted the need for more stringent legislative controls; applying a progressive rate in charging electricity usage; adopting a district perspective in addressing local environmental issues such as development of district-based waste recycling and management facilities; exploring other source of clean energy such as nuclear energy, and other renewable energy such as solar;

- (f) On global warming issue, Hong Kong had performed quite satisfactorily as compared with other places probably partly due to our compact form of development; and
- (g) Apart from environmental protection, it was also necessary to formulate long-term policies on heritage conservation, urban planning, building design, cosmopolitan life-style, and cultural infrastructure, etc. They were also essential elements of building a quality environment and living for our community.

18. The attendance list is attached.

Secretariat to the Commission on Strategic Development
May 2007

策略發展委員會
行政委員會第九次會議
2007 年 4 月 16 日

Ninth Meeting of the Executive Committee
of the Commission on Strategic Development
16 April 2007

出席人士

Attendance List

主席 :

Chairman :

The Chief Executive

行政長官

官方委員 :

Official Members :

The Financial Secretary

Head, Central Policy Unit

Director, Chief Executive's Office

財政司司長

中央政策組首席顧問

行政長官辦公室主任

非官方委員 :

Non-Official Members :

Mr CHAN Cho-chak, John, G.B.S., J.P.

Prof CHAN Lai-wan, Cecilia, J.P.

Mr CHAN Wing-kee, G.B.S., J.P.

The Hon CHAN Yuen-han, J.P.

Mr CHENG Kar-shun, Henry, G.B.S.

Mr CHENG Mo-chi, Moses, G.B.S., J.P.

Dr CHENG Wai-kin, Edgar, G.B.S., J.P.

Dr CHOI Yuen-wan, Philemon, S.B.S., J.P.

The Hon CHOW LIANG Shuk-ye, Selina, G.B.S., J.P.

Prof CHU Ching-wu, Paul, J.P.

The Hon EU Yuet-mee, Audrey, J.P.

Mr HE Guangbei

陳祖澤先生, G.B.S., J.P.

陳麗雲教授, J.P.

陳永棋先生, G.B.S., J.P.

陳婉嫻議員, J.P.

鄭家純先生, G.B.S.

鄭慕智先生, G.B.S., J.P.

鄭維健博士, G.B.S., J.P.

蔡元雲醫生, S.B.S., J.P.

周梁淑怡議員, G.B.S., J.P.

朱經武教授, J.P.

余若薇議員, J.P.

和廣北先生

Mr LAU Hon-chuen, Ambrose, G.B.S., J.P.
Prof LAU Juen-ye, Lawrence
The Hon LAU Sau-shing, Patrick, S.B.S., J.P.
The Hon LEE Chu-ming, Martin, J.P.
Dr LEE Peng-fei, Allen, J.P.
Mr LI Tzar-kuoi, Victor
Dr LIAO York, S.B.S., J.P.
Mr SHIU Sin-por, S.B.S.
The Hon TSANG Yok-sing, Jasper, G.B.S., J.P.
Prof TSUI Lap-chee, J.P.
Mr WONG Hong-yuen, Peter, G.B.S., J.P.
Mr WONG, Raymond R., S.B.S.
Prof WOO Chia-wei, G.B.S.
Mr WOO Kwong-ching, Peter, G.B.S., J.P.
Mr WU Ting-yuk, Anthony, J.P.
Sir WU Ying-sheung, Gordon, G.B.S.
Mr YEUNG Yiu-chung, B.B.S., J.P.

劉漢銓先生, G.B.S., J.P.
劉遵義教授
劉秀成議員, S.B.S., J.P.
李柱銘議員, J.P.
李鵬飛博士, J.P.
李澤鉅先生
廖約克博士, S.B.S., J.P.
邵善波先生, S.B.S.
曾鈺成議員, G.B.S., J.P.
徐立之教授, J.P.
黃匡源先生, G.B.S., J.P.
黃應士先生, S.B.S.
吳家瑋教授, G.B.S.
吳光正先生, G.B.S., J.P.
胡定旭先生, J.P.
胡應湘爵士, G.B.S.
楊耀忠先生, B.B.S., J.P.

列席

In Attendance

Dr LIAO Sau-tung, Sarah, J.P.
Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

環境運輸及工務局局長
廖秀冬博士, J.P.

Ms WONG Sean-ye, Anissa, J.P.
Permanent Secretary for the Environment,
Transport and Works (Environment)

環境運輸及工務局
常任秘書長(環境)
王倩儀女士, J.P.

Dr CHIU Tak-lun, Michael, J.P.
Deputy Director of Environmental Protection (1)

環境保護署副署長(1)
趙德麟博士, J.P.

Mr FAN Wai-ming, Raymond
Deputy Director of Environmental Protection (2)

環境保護署副署長(2)
范偉明先生

Mr TANG Yun-kwong, Roy
Deputy Director of Environmental Protection (3)

環境保護署副署長(3)
鄧忍光先生

因事未能出席

Apologies

官方委員 :

Official Member :

The Chief Secretary for Administration

政務司司長

非官方委員 :

Non-Official Members :

Mr CHENG Hoi-chuen, Vincent, G.B.S., J.P.

Ms CHENG Yeuk-wah, Teresa, B.B.S., J.P.

Prof CHOW Wing-sun, Nelson, S.B.S., J.P.

Ms FANG Meng-sang, Christine, J.P.

Dr FUNG Kwok-king, Victor, G.B.S.

The Hon LAU Chin-shek, J.P.

Dr QIN Xiao

鄭海泉先生, G.B.S., J.P.

鄭若驊女士, B.B.S., J.P.

周永新教授, S.B.S., J.P.

方敏生女士, J.P.

馮國經博士, G.B.S.

劉千石議員, J.P.

秦 曉博士