

**Advisory Committee on Water Resources and Quality of Water Supplies**  
**Minutes of Meeting No. 1**

**Date:** 22 May 2012 (Tuesday)

**Time:** 2:30 p.m.

**Venue:** Conference Room, Water Supplies Department, 48/F, Immigration Tower,  
7 Gloucester Road, Wan Chai, Hong Kong

**Present**

Dr. CHAN Hon Fai	Chairman
Mr. MA Lee Tak	Cinotech Consultants Ltd.
	Vice-Chairman
	Director of Water Supplies
Ms. WONG Pik Yan, Nicole	World Wide Fund for Nature Hong Kong
Dr. CHEUNG Yun Hing, Richard	The City University of Hong Kong
Mr. LAU Yuet Fan, Ivan	Sandbrook Ltd.
Mr. POON Lock Kee, Rocky	FSE Engineering Group Ltd.
Dr. SHIN Kam Shing, Paul	The City University of Hong Kong
Ms. WONG Wai Lan, Luciana	LNS Ltd.
Prof. CHAU Kwai Cheong	The Chinese University of Hong Kong
Ms. SO Yee Ching, Phyllis	Wong & Fok Solicitors
Mr. WONG Siu Wai, Kenny	Hong Kong Productivity Council
Ms. TONG Po Chun	Educationalist
Prof. CHAN Lung Sang	The University of Hong Kong
Dr. LEE Ka Yan, David	Medical Practitioner (Private Practice)
Ms. AU Wing Tsz, Michelle	Friends of the Earth (HK)
Dr. MAN Chi Sum	Green Power
Mr. CHAN Kwok Wai	Kin Man Garment Fty Ltd.
Ms. LAU Kwai Yung	Yuen Long District Council
Ms. MOK Ka Han, Rosanda	Kowloon City District Council
Ms. SIU Ka Yi	Central and Western District Council
Mr. CHAN Pai Ming, Jimmy	Principal Assistant Secretary
	Development Bureau
Mr. TANG Kin Fai	Assistant Director
	Environmental Protection Department
Ms. CHU Lan Ying	Assistant Director
	Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
Dr. LEUNG Ting Hung	Consultant
	Department of Health
Mr. CHAN Siu Tack	Assistant Director
	Housing Department
Mr. WONG Kwok Fai, Alfred	Secretary
	Senior Engineer, Water Supplies Department

**Water Supplies Department Representatives in Attendance**

Mr. CHAN Kwong Wei	Deputy Director, Water Supplies Department
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Mr. NG Mang Tung, Bobby	Assistant Director, Water Supplies Department
Mr. CHAN Kin Man	Chief Chemist, Water Supplies Department
Mr. LAM Ching Man	Chief Engineer, Water Supplies Department
Mr. CHAN Shu Key, Charles	Senior Engineer, Water Supplies Department
Mr. PANG Kwok Fan, Gabriel	Senior Engineer, Water Supplies Department
Mr. FONG Kai Leung	Engineer, Water Supplies Department (Notes Taker)

## Item

## Action

### Opening Remarks

- 1.1 The Chairman welcomed all Members and representatives of Water Supplies Department (WSD) to the 1st Meeting of the Advisory Committee on Water Resources and Quality of Water Supplies (the Committee). The Chairman announced that it was the first meeting of the new two-year term (i.e. 1 April 2012 to 31 March 2014) of the Committee.
- 1.2 The Chairman introduced that the predecessor of the Committee was the Advisory Committee on the Quality of Water Supplies (ACQWS). He said that in response to the growing expectations of the public on the conservation and management of water resources, the Government had extended the scope of the Advisory Committee from 1st April 2012 to cover water resources-related issues in addition to the quality of water supplies in Hong Kong. He remarked that it was a great honour for him to be appointed as the Chairman of the Committee for the new term. He invited all Members and representatives of WSD to work together with him as a team and advise the Government on matters relating to water resources and quality of water supplies.
- 1.3 The Chairman expressed special thanks to the eight retired Members including, Prof. HO Kin Chung, Mr. CHAN Sheung Yan, Kenneth, Ms. HO Siu Fong, Betty, Dr. WONG Chun Yu, Benjamin, Prof. YU Chai Mei, Jimmy, Mr. CHAN Man Kin, Ms. LEE Kwun Yee, Kenny and Ms. FONG Kwok Shan Christine for their contribution in the past.
- 1.4 The Chairman welcomed ten new Members for this term for joining the Committee, including Ms. TONG Po Chun who was re-joining the Committee after her retirement two years ago, Prof. CHAN Lung Sang, Dr. LEE Ka Yan, David, Ms. AU Wing Tsz, Michelle, Dr. MAN Chi Sum, Mr. CHAN Kwok Wai, Mr. LAU Yuet Fan, Ivan, Ms. LAU Kwai Yung, Ms. MOK Ka Han, Rosanda and Ms. SIU Ka Yi.
- 1.5 The Chairman also informed the meeting that Mr. WONG Kwok Fai, Alfred had replaced Mr. LI Kan Kay as the Secretary of the Committee.

- 1.6** The Chairman reminded Members about the requirements in respect of declaration of interests stipulated in the guidelines: “Declaration of Interests by Members of Public Sector Advisory and Statutory Bodies – Guidelines for a One-tier Reporting System”, which had been distributed to Members by post on 30 March 2012.
- 1.7** As there were new Members attending the meeting for the first time, all attendees including the Chairman took turns to introduce themselves around the table.
- 1.8** The Chairman then gave an introduction to the background and the work of the Committee.

### **Agenda Items**

#### **Confirmation of the Minutes of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Meeting held on 1 February 2012**

- 2.1** The Secretary reported that the draft minutes of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Meeting had been circulated to Members of the ACQWS for comment and the comments received had been incorporated in the revised draft minutes distributed to Members before the meeting. There being no further amendments proposed at the meeting, the Chairman announced that the latest draft minutes of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the ACQWS were confirmed.

### **Matters Arising**

#### **3 Quality of Water in Buildings - Quality Water Recognition Scheme for Buildings (the Scheme)**

- 3.1** The Chairman invited Mr. Chan Shu Key, Charles of WSD to brief Members on the progress of WSD’s actions in exploring ways to encourage more applicants to join the Scheme.

- 3.2** Mr. Chan Shu Key, Charles reported the progress as follows -

**WSD**

- (a) There had been continuous increase in the no. of buildings joining the Scheme despite its voluntary nature. This was reflected by the increase in the no. of certificates awarded under the Scheme. The no. of valid certificates up to end April 2012 had been increased to 3,498 while the no. of households enjoying the Scheme had been increased to over 1.09 million. This reflected the popularity of the Scheme as well as the simplicity of the application procedures. All in all, this Scheme was considered to be a successful one.
- (b) In order to explore ways to encourage more applicants joining the Scheme, WSD had written to the Government Property Agency (GPA)

and Architectural Services Department (ArchSD) to solicit their assistance in encouraging Government buildings under their jurisdiction to participate in the Scheme. Positive feedbacks had been received from both GPA and ArchSD. Applications from more Government buildings for registration to the Scheme were expected.

**3.3** In response to Dr. MAN Chi Sum, Mr. Chan Shu Key, Charles advised that there were three main reasons for households not joining the Scheme, as identified from the results of the Opinion Survey on Quality of Water in Buildings (opinion survey) -

- (a) Not willing to pay extra expenses;
- (b) Repair and maintenance works would be carried out regularly anyway; and
- (c) No manpower and time to handle the application.

**3.4** The Chairman advised that to his understanding the additional expenses involved were actually not significant. To attract more applicants to participate in the Scheme, the Chairman suggested WSD to focus more on educating the public about the benefits of joining the Scheme.

**3.5** Mr. MA Lee Tak supplemented that -

- (a) While ArchSD had not yet joined the Scheme in the past, government buildings under their jurisdiction were following WSD's guidelines during regular maintenance. After the recent detection of Legionnaires' Disease at Tamar, ArchSD had started to review and consider joining the Scheme.
- (b) The participation rate was very high for private properties with property management agents.
- (c) The main challenge to the Scheme was the group of buildings without owners' corporations, residents' organisations or property management agents. Mr. MA agreed with the Chairman that the additional expenses were generally not a critical issue for the applicants. Mr. MA suggested that the Working Group (WG) on Quality of Water in Buildings might study in detail and think of ways of encouraging more applicants through public education and making the public realise the importance of joining the Scheme.

**3.6** Prof. CHAN Lung Sang suggested consideration be given to work with developers or property agencies, so that individual property with good water quality could be labelled as such during selling transaction. The Chairman considered that the direction could be explored, but it might not be applicable to new buildings. Mr. MA Lee Tak clarified that the Scheme was currently applied to a whole housing estate or an entire building block instead of an individual property.

**3.7** Ms. WONG Wai Lan, Luciana quoted the experience in “Beam Plus” recognized by Hong Kong Green Building Council as an example to brief the meeting that expenses on testing of water samples should not be a critical problem for the applicants.

**3.8** Ms. AU Wing Tsz, Michelle enquired whether the results of the opinion survey completed in 2011 would be published or not. Mr. Chan Shu Key, Charles replied that a summary of the survey results could be provided after the meeting.

[Post-meeting note: The summary of the survey results were sent to Ms. AU on 23 May 2012.]

#### **4 Publication of Water Quality Data**

**4.1** The Chairman invited Mr. CHAN Kin Man of WSD to report the progress on the publication of water quality data of Dongjiang (DJ) water received in Hong Kong at Muk Wu Pumping Station and of the drinking water in Hong Kong. Mr. CHAN reported that the compilation of the water quality data for the period from 1 April 2011 to 31 March 2012 was completed and the results were ready for uploading to WSD’s website after the vetting and endorsement of the WG on Publication of Water Quality Data.

**WSD**

**4.2** Mr. CHAN Kin Man gave the meeting a brief comparison between the testing requirements of WHO 2008 which was currently adopted by WSD, and those of WHO 2011 which was launched by WHO on 4 July 2011. Mr. CHAN advised that preparation work for the development of suitable methods for testing of water quality in compliance with the WHO 2011 would be completed by end July 2012 and the associated water quality monitoring would commence in August 2012.

**WSD**

**4.3** As for publication of the radiological quality data of drinking water, Mr. CHAN Kin Man briefed the meeting that it would be synchronized with the publication of the monitoring data of the drinking water supply in accordance with the WHO 2011 in the next update of water quality data from 1 October 2011 to 30 September 2012 as agreed in the 23<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of ACQWS.

**4.4** The Chairman enquired when WSD’s laboratories would be accredited under the Hong Kong Laboratory Accreditation Scheme (HOKLAS) for water quality testing in accordance with WHO 2011. Mr. CHAN Kin Man replied that some of WSD’s laboratories had been accredited under HOKLAS for selected testing parameters in accordance with WHO requirements having regard to resources available. That said, the quality assurance system of laboratories was based on the requirements of ISO/IEC 17025:2005. In view that WSD would commence the water quality monitoring in accordance with the new standard in August 2012, the Chairman expressed his appreciation on WSD’s effort on the prompt adoption of the latest water quality standard for monitoring in compliance with WHO 2011.

- 4.5** As many Members were new to the Committee, Mr. MA Lee Tak offered and the Chairman supported to arrange a briefing on WSD's work on the water quality control/monitoring and WSD's water safety plan.
- 4.6** Prof. CHAN Lung San supported the idea and expressed his interest in WSD's internal procedures, guidelines and codes of practice. Mr. CHAN Kin Man advised that there were different documentations on the operation of WSD's laboratories including quality assurance policy, standard operating procedures, analytical methods manual and supporting documentations. Prof. CHAN also enquired about the security control of the water supply system. Mr. CHAN replied that WSD had implemented a water safety plan which was based on a preventive risk management approach to proactively assure the safety of water from source, through treatment to distribution. The potential risks in the water supply system would be identified and assessed together with corresponding control measures and operational monitoring. Where necessary, corrective or remedial actions would be taken to safeguard the quality of water supply.

## **5 Visit to Guangdong**

- 5.1** The Chairman invited Mr. NG Mang Tung, Bobby of WSD to update the meeting about a pollution incident in Shenzhen Reservoir as reported in an earlier press report. Mr. NG said that the press report quoted some rubbish being found in 梧桐河 of Shenzhen Reservoir. WSD had inspected the alleged pollution spot on 9 February 2012 and observed that measures like sediment removal, tree planting and railing installation had been carried out on both sides along the river. WSD was satisfied with work done by the relevant Mainland Authorities on the protection of water quality of 梧桐河. Furthermore, Mr. NG advised that WSD had continuously monitored the water quality of DJ water and no abnormality was observed.
- 5.2** Mr. NG Mang Tung, Bobby briefed the meeting that WSD was planning a visit to DJ in the coming November for the Committee. Similar to previous years, a two-day or three-day trip could cover the areas from Shenzhen (深圳) to Heyuan (河源). During the trip, the Committee could visit Xinfengjiang Reservoir (新豐江水庫) at Heyuan (河源) which was the largest reservoir among the three major reservoirs in the upper reaches of DJ; Taiyuan Pumping Station (太園泵站) from where the DJ water was conveyed to the Shenzhen Reservoir (深圳水庫) through a dedicated aqueduct; and the Dongshen Water Supply Improvement Works Exhibition Centre (東深供水改造工程展覽館) where Members could have an overview of the history of the Improvement Works of the Dongshen Water Supply System. Also, the Committee could visit the Bio-nitrification Plant (生物硝化廠) at Shenzhen Reservoir (深圳水庫) and the sewage treatment plants along the way.
- 5.3** Mr. NG Mang Tung, Bobby added that Members' schedules would be

checked later for the visit of either two days or three days in November 2012. The format and the itinerary of the visit would be discussed in the next meeting.

**WSD**

## **6 Use of Reclaimed Water**

**6.1** The Chairman invited Mr. NG Mang Tung, Bobby to brief Members on the progress in respect of the use of reclaimed water. Mr. NG reported that:

**WSD**

(a) Two pilot water reclamation schemes had been conducted in the sewage treatment works in Ngong Ping and Shek Wu Hui.

(b) The pilot scheme in Ngong Ping was still in operation, and the treated sewage effluent was being used for toilet flushing, landscape irrigation and fish raising.

(c) A Working Group on the implementation of reclaimed water supply to Sheung Shui and Fanling had been set up to co-ordinate inter-departmental efforts in studying the use of reclaimed water in Sheung Shui, Fanling as well as the North East New Territories New Development Areas (NENT NDA) viz. Kwu Tung North, Fanling North and Ping Che/Ta Kwu Ling.

(d) A Technical Sub-Group was also set up to study the technical feasibility and economic viability of reclaimed water supply to Sheung Shui, Fanling and NENT NDA.

**6.2** Noting that projects to take forward the use of reclaimed water were classified as designated projects, the Chairman enquired whether the process could be simplified by allowing such projects a direct application of the Environmental Permit (EP) without carrying out an Environmental Impact Assessment, given that the mitigation measures were quite standard. Mr. TANG Kin Fai said that EPD supported the use of reclaimed water and that direct application of the EP could be considered on an individual basis.

**6.3** In response to Mr. CHAN Kwok Wai, Mr. MA Lee Tak said that WSD had commissioned a consultant to formulate a standard for the quality of reclaimed water. Consultation with academic bodies, professions and relevant trades was in progress.

**6.4** Mr. MA Lee Tak briefed the meeting that WSD had implemented a Total Water Management (TWM) Strategy since 2008. He shared with Members that by comparing the estimate made in 2008 and the latest estimate after implementing TWM measures, the projected fresh water consumption in 2030 was expected to decrease from the earlier estimate of 1,350 mcm to about 1,100 mcm, and that the actual fresh water consumption in 2011 was indeed less than that in 2010. Mr. MA advised that WSD had confidence in the effectiveness of the TWM Strategy.

- 6.5** Mr. MA Lee Tak invited Members, particularly new Members, to attend a briefing on the TMW Strategy. Mr. MA added that it was a right time for WSD to share its achievements in TWM before conducting a review of the Strategy.

**WSD**

## **7 Terms of Reference (TOR) of the Committee**

- 7.1** The Chairman invited Mr. NG Mang Tung, Bobby to brief the meeting on the revision of the TOR. Mr. NG reported that the Secretary for Development had endorsed the extension of the TOR to cover water resources apart from water quality issues and that the new name and TOR of the Committee were as follows -

### **Advisory Committee on Water Resources and Quality of Water Supplies**

To keep under review and to advise the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region through the Director of Water Supplies on matters relating to water resources and quality of water supplies.

### **水資源及供水水質事務諮詢委員會**

檢討水資源及供水水質事宜，並透過水務署署長給香港特別行政區政府提供意見。

- 7.2** Mr. NG advised and Members agreed that this item could be deleted.

## **8 Water Conservation Campaign for Primary Schools**

- 8.1** The Chairman invited Mr. PANG Kwok Fan, Gabriel of WSD to brief the meeting on the progress of the water conservation campaign for primary schools. Mr. PANG reported that:

**WSD**

- (a) In the school year 2011/12, 80 primary schools had invited us to conduct 88 roadshows. With the new “School Water Audit” disc dispatched to all the primary schools last October, it was expected that some schools might make use of the audio-visual Powerpoint in the disc to convey the water conservation messages to their students.
- (b) For the Water Conservation Ambassador Selection Scheme, over 1,000 Water Conservation Ambassadors were appointed in the last 2 rounds of the Scheme and there were 35 schools showing interest in joining the Scheme this year. The certificate presentation ceremony would be held in early July 2012.
- (c) Either Sha Tin Water Treatment Works (WTW) or Ma On Shan WTW was open to schools and groups for educational visit every Monday to Friday. With the guidance from WSD’s staff, the students would be briefed on water treatment processes and water saving tips during the visit.



(d) For the Water Conservation Competition, 418 entries for the Open Category and 60 entries for the Secondary School Category had been received. An adjudication meeting had been held on 19 April 2012 and an award presentation ceremony would be held on 2 June 2012.

**8.2** Mr. PANG Kwok Fan, Gabriel stated that a teaching kit for liberal studies, “Water: Learn & Conserve” (知水、惜水) had been dispatched to all secondary schools in November 2011. The content of the teaching kit was also available on the WSD website.

**8.3** Mr. PANG Kwok Fan, Gabriel advised that World Water Monitoring Challenge (previously known as World Water Monitoring Day) was scheduled to be held in October 2012.

**8.4** Ms. SIU Ka Yi enquired whether a Non-Government Organisation (NGO) could join WSD’s activities and visits to WTW. Mr. PANG Kwok Fan, Gabriel replied that NGOs were welcomed to apply to visit WSD WTW. Mr. PANG added that if the group comprised more than 40 participants, the NGO/group could join WSD’s Annual Open Day, the next one being scheduled for 1 December 2012 at Ma On Shan WTW. For participation of other WSD’s activities open to the public, Mr. PANG advised that the NGOs as well as other members of the public would be welcomed. For competitions such as the Water Conservation Competition, NGOs could join in the Open Category.

**8.5** Mr. MA Lee Tak supplemented that WSD would seek to enhance the collaboration with NGOs in promoting water conservation. Mr. MA added that the government could continue to initiate and host the promotion activities and explore ways to work with NGOs or District Councils with a view to delivering the water conservation messages more widely.

**8.6** In view of the wide scope of the water conservation issue, Ms. WONG Pik Yan, Nicole suggested that, for more effective use of resources/efforts, WSD might formulate separate education or engagement strategies for various target groups. Ms. WONG added that this topic could be further discussed in the coming meeting of the WG on Public Education.

**8.7** Ms. AU Wing Tsz, Michelle opined that the public was lacking an objective/target of conserving water given some people in the public still perceived that the amount of DJ water we saved would be wasted eventually. Mr. MA clarified that according to the current arrangement stipulated in the DJ Water Supply Agreement, the amount of DJ water to be supplied to Hong Kong was based on the forecast demand and we would only draw what we needed so as to optimise the use of precious raw water resource.

**8.8** Prof. CHAN Lung Sang suggested that WSD could set up a museum or exhibition centre to promote attention to water resources in Hong Kong. Mr. MA Lee Tak responded that a temporary education centre would be open to the public this year at WSD Mongkok Office. When the WSD Mongkok

Office was to move to New Territories West, a permanent education centre would be set up there.

## **9 The Hong Kong Voluntary Water Efficiency Labelling Scheme (WELS)**

**9.1** The Chairman invited Mr. NG Mang Tung, Bobby to brief the meeting on the progress of the implementation of WELS. Mr. NG reported that -

**WSD**

- (a) Registration of showers under WELS had commenced in September 2009. Up to end April 2012, 178 models had been registered.
- (b) Registration of water taps under WELS had commenced in September 2010. Up to end April 2012, 109 models had been registered.
- (c) Registration of washing machines under WELS had commenced in March 2011. Up to end April 2012, 56 models had been registered.
- (d) Registration of urinal equipment under WELS had commenced in March 2012. As the manufacturers and suppliers might still be preparing the corresponding testing reports for WELS submission, WSD had not yet received any application as at end April 2012. Mr. NG added that the associated promotional campaign would be enhanced shortly.

**9.2** Mr. NG added that a registration scheme for flushing cisterns was being planned. Mr. NG also said that WSD was studying the use of flow restrictors in domestic households given the results of the “Domestic Water Consumption Survey” indicated that water consumption from water taps was quite high.

## **10 Discussion on matters related to Legionnaires’ Disease**

**10.1** The Chairman invited Mr. LAM Ching Man of WSD to brief the meeting on the recommendations of the Prevention of Legionnaires’ Disease Committee (PLDC) and WSD’s follow-up actions.

**10.2** Mr. LAM Ching Man said that a PLDC meeting was held on 8 February 2012 to discuss the issues arising from the investigation of the recent detection of Legionnaires’ Disease (LD) at Tamar. Mr. LAM advised that the PLDC agreed with the professional advice provided by Professor YUEN Kwok Yung of the Department of Microbiology at the University of Hong Kong.

**10.3** Mr. LAM Ching Man reported that the PLDC had the following recommendations/considerations -

- (i) Regular testing for Legionella bacteria in cold/hot water systems in buildings in the community was generally not required. Testing for Legionella should be conducted for investigation upon notification of occurrence of a human case of Legionnaires’ disease

in the buildings concerned.

- (ii) Testing of Legionella bacteria in cold/hot water systems of newly completed buildings was not necessary.
- (iii) New cold/hot water systems including water tank and distribution pipes should continue to follow WSD's guidelines on cleansing and disinfection upon completion.
- (iv) The PLDC would review the Code of Practice (CoP) regarding the design, operation and maintenance precautions of cold/hot water systems as appropriate, particularly in respect of the flushing of infrequently used water pipes/outlets, localised water heater and mixing valves.
- (v) The PLDC would prepare Housekeeping Guidelines for use in building management based on the latest revised CoP.

**10.4** Mr. LAM Ching Man advised that WSD would also update the relevant guidelines based on the latest CoP.

### **Nomination of Chairpersons of Working Groups**

**11.1** The Chairman invited nominations for the new Chairpersons of the WGs on (i) Quality of Water in Buildings; (ii) Publication of Water Quality Data; and (iii) Public Education, for the new term.

**11.2** The Chairman informed the meeting that Mr. CHAN Sheung Yan, Kenneth, the previous Chairperson of the WG on Quality of Water in Buildings, had retired from the Committee. The Chairman invited nominations for the new Chairperson. There being no nomination, he suggested and Members unanimously agreed that Mr. LAU Yuet Fan, Ivan, who was the new representative from the trade in the current term, was to be elected as the Chairperson of the WG on Quality of Water in Buildings for the term.

**11.3** The Chairman remarked that Dr. CHEUNG Yun Hing, Richard, was the Chairperson of the WG on Publication of Water Quality Data of the previous term. The Chairman invited nominations for the new Chairperson. There being no nomination, he suggested and Members unanimously agreed that Dr. CHEUNG was to be re-elected as the Chairperson of the WG on Publication of Water Quality Data for the term.

**11.4** The Chairman remarked that Ms. WONG Pik Yan, Nicole, was the Chairperson of the WG on Public Education of the previous term. The Chairman invited nominations for the new Chairperson. There being no nomination, he suggested and Members unanimously agreed that Ms. WONG was to be re-elected as the Chairperson of the WG on Public Education for the term.

## **Any Other Business**

### **12 Discussion of whether any new working group needed to be formed in view of the new TOR**

**12.1** The Chairman briefed the meeting that Dr. CHEUNG Yun Hing, Richard had proposed to discuss whether any new working groups should be formed in view of the extended TOR.

**12.2** Dr. CHEUNG Yun Hing, Richard supplemented that Members might consider forming a new WG or extending the scope of one of the existing WGs to cover water resources-related matters, as this issue was becoming more important in the coming two-year term of the Committee.

**12.3** While Ms. WONG Pik Yan, Nicole had no objection to the WG on Public Education taking on education matters related to water resources, the remaining matters needed to be handled by other WGs given the very wide scope of water resources issue.

**12.4** After deliberations, the meeting generally agreed that a new WG dedicated for water resources could be formed. However, before that the TOR of the new WG should firstly be defined and this issue would then be considered further.

### **13 Development of the desalination plant at Tseung Kwan O**

**13.1** Mr NG Mang Tung, Bobby briefed the meeting the background of the desalination project -

(a) In anticipation of the continuing population growth, WSD estimated that the annual fresh water demand would increase steadily from 923 mcm in 2011 to about 1 100 mcm in 2030 whereas more acute fluctuation in rainfall in the coming years was expected due to climate change.

(b) Droughts had been experienced in Guangdong and some other provinces in the Mainland in recent years. The fast pace of economic development of other cities in the Guangdong region including Heyuan and Huizhou had resulted in further stress in the scarce fresh water resources of DJ.

(c) To better prepare Hong Kong to meet these challenges, WSD planned to carry out a consultancy for conducting a planning and investigation study for a desalination plant at Tseung Kwan O and the associated fresh water transfer facilities, so that sea water could be readily tapped in good time as an alternative water resource when needed.

**13.2** Mr NG Mang Tung, Bobby reported that WSD had successfully sought endorsement from the Public Works Sub-committee of the Legislative Council on 16 May 2012 with a view to seeking approval for the funding for the Study

from the Finance Committee in early June 2012.

[Post-meeting note: Finance Committee of the Legislative Council approved the funding for the Study on 8 June 2012.]

- 13.3** Mr. NG Mang Tung, Bobby advised that location of the desalination plant was preliminarily selected at Area 137 in Tseung Kwan O and the plant was designed to provide an annual output of 50 mcm with an extension up to 90 mcm.
- 13.4** Mr. MAN Chi Sum fully supported WSD to start the investigation and planning of the desalination plant and would be pleased to provide any assistant if necessary.
- 14** There being no further items raised, the Chairman thanked Members for attending the meeting and adjourned the meeting at 5:30 p.m.