

Advisory Committee on Water Supplies (2018-2020)
Minutes of Seventh Meeting

Date: 20 March 2020 (Friday)
Time: 2:00 p.m.
Venue: Video conferencing at Members' own offices

Present

Ir Dr. CHAN Hon Fai	Chairman
Prof. KWAN Kai Cho, Joseph	Vice-Chairman
Mr. LAU Che Feng, Edwin	Working Group Chairman
Mr. TAM Kwok Wing, Ivan	Working Group Chairman
Sr Prof. WONG Bay	Working Group Vice-Chairman
Ir NG Chun Keung	Working Group Vice-Chairman
Ms. WONG Chi Shun, Carol	Working Group Vice-Chairman
Prof. CHAN Yan Keung, Thomas	Member
Prof. CHENG Man Chung, Daniel	Member
Prof. CHIU Pauline	Member
Prof. CHU Wei	Member
Prof. WU Xun	Member
Dr. WONG Siu Wing, Eric	Member
Ms. LEE Pik Yee, Peggy	Member
Mr. YEUNG Wai Sing	Member
Mr. WONG Kwun Kit, William	Member
Mr. CHAN Tak Yeung, Thomas	Member (Development Bureau)
Mr. MAK Ka Chun	Member (Architectural Services Department)
Mr. CHEN Che Kong	Member (Environmental Protection Department)
Mr. LING Wai Kit, Ricky	Member (Housing Department)
Mr. WONG Chung Leung	Member (Water Supplies Department)
Mr. LAW Yuk Fat, Robin	Secretary (Water Supplies Department)

Water Supplies Department Representatives in Attendance

Mr. WONG Yan Lok, Roger	Assistant Director
Mr. KWOK Yau Ting, Kelvin	Chief Chemist
Mr. LEUNG Chi Hung, Simon	Chief Engineer
Mr. CHEUNG Yip Kui, Rico	Chief Engineer
Mr. FU Sau Bong, Tenny	Senior Engineer
Mr. LAI Siu Ming, Jeffrey	Senior Engineer
Mr. LAU Cheuk Fung, Calvin	Senior Engineer
Mr. NG Chi Yuen, James	Senior Engineer
Mr. LO Tsz Lung, Warren	Senior Engineer

Absent with Apologies

Prof. WONG Wing Tak	Working Group Chairman
Dr. LAU Wai Neng, Michael	Member
Dr. WONG TAAM Chi Woon, Vivian	Member
Ms. KAM Kin	Member
Dr. HO Shu Kwong, Raymond	Member
Dr. POON Kwok Ming	Member's representative (Department of Health)

Item

1. Opening Remarks

- 1.1 The Chairman welcomed all Members of Advisory Committee on Water Supplies ("ACWS") and representatives of Water Supplies Department ("WSD") to the meeting.
- 1.2 The Chairman informed the meeting that Prof. WONG Wing Tak, Mr. LAU Wai Neng, Michael, Dr. WONG TAAM Chi Woon, Vivian, Ms. KAM Kin, Dr. HO Shu Kwong, Raymond and Dr. POON Kwok Ming were unable to attend the meeting and had sent in their apologies.

Agenda Items

2. Confirmation of Minutes of Last Meeting

- 2.1 The Chairman advised that the revised draft minutes for last meeting, which had incorporated Members' comments, had been re-circulated to the Members on 6 March 2020 with no further comment received. There being no further amendment proposed at the meeting, the revised draft minutes were confirmed.

3. Report of Working Group on Operational Matters

- 3.1 The Chairman invited Sr Prof. WONG Bay, Vice-Chairman of the Working Group ("WG") on Operational Matters, to report the key issues discussed in the 6th WG meeting held on 15 January 2020.

General Acceptance System for Plumbing Products and Surveillance Programme

3.2 Sr Prof. WONG reported the following:

- WSD briefed the WG Members on the background of the General Acceptance (“GA”) system which was set up to pre-approve plumbing products for use in plumbing projects based on test results of samples of the plumbing products on their compliance with the statutory requirements. A surveillance programme was implemented starting in end 2017 to supplement the GA system. By randomly taking samples of different types of plumbing products with GA in the market, the surveillance programme aimed at confirming the continuous compliance of the GA plumbing products with the statutory requirements. A material testing laboratory of WSD was also established in mid-2018 to carry out tests for the surveillance programme. GA plumbing products with acceptable product certification would be given a “Two Stars” status under a GA+ scheme and it would not be necessary to sample them under the surveillance programme in view of the quality assurance by the product certification.
- Currently, samples of 16 GA plumbing products would be randomly taken on risk-based principle for testing every month under the surveillance programme. The proportions of samples of different types of plumbing products taken under the surveillance programme would be reviewed every six months. Up to December 2019, 289 samples of GA products had been taken and 99.3% of them complied with the statutory requirements.
- WSD advised that they would further enhance public education to increase public awareness on the use of GA plumbing products which complied with the statutory requirements and were safe. WSD would launch a voluntary scheme to publish the information on retail shops with sale of GA plumbing products to further facilitate the public to purchase GA plumbing products.
- WG Members appreciated the efforts of WSD in the control of plumbing materials and considered the actions taken were appropriate.

Multi-pronged Approach on Combating Unlawful Taking of Water

3.3

Sr Prof. WONG reported the following:

- WSD briefed WG Members on the offence in unlawful taking of water under the Waterworks Ordinance (“WWO”). Apart from contravention of the WWO, unlawful taking of water might also cause pollution to water, render the fire service or inside service system ineffective, or cause waste of water. The Prosecution Unit of WSD was taking multi-pronged approach to combat unlawful taking of water including (i) investigation and prosecution; (ii) surprise inspection and (iii) training of WSD’s staff and staff of relevant government departments on detection of unlawful taking of water, and promotion and education to the public against the offence.
- In response to a WG Member’s suggestion to adopt communication smart phone Apps such as WhatsApp for reporting unlawful taking of water by the public, WSD advised that the public could use the 1823 Mobile App - "Tell me@1823" which supported photo/video and location service functions for reporting unlawful taking of water.
- WG Members commended the actions taken by WSD to combat unlawful taking of water in Hong Kong.

4. Report of Working Group on Government Network and Inside Service

4.1

The Chairman invited Mr. TAM Kwok Wing, Ivan, Chairman of the WG on Government Network and Inside Service, to report the comments received from WG Members after circulation of the following two discussion papers via email on 19 February 2020.

Water Safety Plan Subsidy Scheme

4.2

Mr. TAM Kwok Wing, Ivan reported the following:

- The paper on “Water Safety Plan Subsidy Scheme” briefed WG Members on the details of the proposed Water Safety Plan Subsidy Scheme (“WSPSS”) to be launched by the Government. The WSPSS aimed at providing subsidy to those eligible property owners in order to encourage them to implement Water Safety Plan for Buildings (“WSPB”) for their buildings, so as to further safeguard drinking water safety in Hong Kong.

- The WSPSS would provide subsidy to the property owners in the formulation and implementation of WSPB for their buildings including water safety risk assessment on the inside service of the building undertaken by Qualified Person for formulation of WSPB and rectification works for controlling the risk as recommended in the water safety risk assessment. The WSPSS would also provide subsidy for the expenses incurred in the first two cycles of the implementation of the WSPB.
- WSD intended to invite applications for the WSPSS in the second quarter of 2020 and start granting subsidies around the third quarter of 2020. Publicity programme would be launched to provide more details of the scheme to the public in due course.
- Positive feedback on the scheme was received from the WG Members with suggestions on enhancing promotion and public education of WSPB which WSD would follow up.

4.3 The Chairman supported the WSPSS and suggested that the property owners and management agents of the subsidized buildings should be required to participate in publicity events such as sharing their experience for promoting of WSPB. Mr. WONG Chung Leung of WSD responded that such condition would be included in the scheme.

4.4 Sr Prof. WONG Bay supported the WSPSS and suggested WSD to put continuous efforts to promote WSPB to the public via different publicity programmes. Mr. TAM Kwok Wing, Ivan supplemented that it was important to raise the public's awareness in managing and maintaining the inside services of buildings to ensure drinking water safety.

4.5 Prof. CHENG Man Chung, Daniel supported the WSPSS and reminded WSD to strengthen public engagement so as to boost the participation rate. Mr. WONG Chung Leung of WSD affirmed that a public relation consultant was being employed for promoting the scheme and engagement with property owners and management agents.

Review of Work Plan of the WG

4.6 Mr. Ivan TAM reported the following:

- The paper on “Review of Work Plan of the WG” reviewed the WG’s work plan which was formulated at the beginning of the 2018-2020 term.
- The following items in work plan had been covered during the tenure of the WG:
 - Formulation of strategies on water loss management and water main asset management
 - Adoption of smart technologies in the water supply network
 - Assistance to the market in developing expertise in leakage detection
 - Provision of technical advice and support to building owners
 - Publicity of proper management and maintenance of inside services
- The review concluded that good progress had been achieved for all the items listed in the work plan.
- WG Members agreed with the conclusion of the review and appreciated the effort of WSD’s colleagues in achieving the progress.

4.7 The Chairman and Mr. WONG Chung Leung of WSD appreciated the efforts of the WG and thanked the WG for providing great contribution to WSD in formulating and taking forward various measures in water loss management, management and maintenance of inside services, etc.

5. Report of Working Group on Water Conservation and Education

5.1 The Chairman invited Mr. LAU Che Feng, Edwin, Chairman of the WG on Water Conservation and Education, to report the key issues discussed at the 6th WG meeting held on 21 January 2020.

“Cherish Water Campus” Integrated Education Programme

5.2 Mr. Edwin LAU reported the following:

- For primary schools, the revamped teaching kit had been delivered to all primary schools in Hong Kong in November 2019. The 2018/19 “Cherish Water Campus” Award Ceremony was held on 20 December 2019 at Hang Hau Community Hall. A total of 251 awards were presented to commend the contributions and efforts of the education sector on water conservation. WSD would explore with Ocean Park to co-organise an online “Water Resources Quiz Competition”. The quiz aimed to further promote and encourage primary school students to know more about water resources.

- For kindergartens, “Save Every Drop” Parent-child Colouring Competition was held in 2019/2020 school year and over 13,000 entries were received. Awards of the competition were presented in 2018/19 “Cherish Water Campus” Award Ceremony on 20 December 2019.

Water Resources Education Centre - H₂OPE Centre

5.3 Mr. Edwin LAU reported the following:

- The H₂OPE Centre was officially opened on 13 December 2019. After the official opening, H₂OPE Centre received more than 6,000 visitors in the first month.
- In order to keep the public’s interest in the H₂OPE Centre, WG Members suggested the followings:
 - More videos should be sourced for showing in the dome theatre to suit the different interests of visitors.
 - New exhibits harnessing virtual reality/augmented reality technologies could be included in the H₂OPE Centre to enhance the visitors’ experience.
 - The contents of the exhibition panels should be updated from time to time.

Mandatory Water Efficiency Labelling Scheme via Legislative Amendments to the Waterworks Ordinance

5.4 Mr. Edwin LAU reported the following:

- WSD briefed WG Members on the outcome of the second round stakeholder consultation for the Business Impact Assessment (“BIA”) for the proposed mandatory Water Efficiency Labelling Scheme (WELS). All stakeholders agreed that the introduction of the proposed regulatory framework would enhance public awareness on water conservation. Some stakeholders expressed their concerns in areas such as the registration requirement, minimum water efficiency requirement, testing and certification requirement, labelling requirement, and transitional arrangement. The BIA would analyse the views of the stakeholders on the proposed mandatory WELS.
- The BIA report including compliance cost estimation was under preparation.

“Let’s Save 10L Water” Campaign 2.0

5.5 Mr. Edwin LAU reported the following:

- For flow controller installation at private housing estates and schools, as at January 2020, 1,375 households in 5 private housing estates had been registered for the flow controller installation scheme and the installations in 874 households (64%) were completed. Besides, 460 kindergartens had applied for the participation in the scheme, and flow controllers were installed at 331 kindergartens (72%). Registration and installation for both private housing and schools had been suspended since end of January 2020 for social distancing due to the COVID-19 epidemic.
- For Innovative Water Efficient Showerhead Design Competition, the competition was launched in November 2019 together with an event website. Invitation letter and promotional materials were sent to potential participants. Briefing sessions for Professional and School Sections of the competition were held on 16 December 2019 and 18 January 2020 respectively. Deadline had been postponed from March to April 2020 in view of the COVID-19 epidemic which might affect the schools in preparing the designs for participation in the competition.
- For Water Saving Competition, the competition mechanism had been formulated and summarized as below:-
 - Competition would be in 3 rounds.
 - Average daily consumption would be compared amongst the participating households in each round within 2019-2021.
 - All domestic household would be invited to join the competition via leaflet insertion in water bills and email notifications.

The competition would be postponed from March to October 2020 due to knock-on effect of the postponement of the Innovative Water Efficient Showerhead Design Competition.

Cherish Water Chef Recognition Programme

5.6 Mr. Edwin LAU reported the following:

- WSD would explore with Green Earth to organize the “Cherish Water Chef Recognition Programme”. The programme would provide training and visits for chefs on the importance of water conservation.

- 5.7 However, Mr. YEUNG Wai Sing advised that the “Cherish Water Chef Recognition Programme” might have to be cancelled due to the impact of the COVID-19 epidemic on the catering sector. Mr. WONG Chung Leung of WSD thanked Mr. YEUNG for his continuous support to WSD’s work during his tenure.

6. Any Other Business

- 6.1 The Chairman expressed gratitude to all Members for their contributions to the ACWS in this term (2018-2020) in the past 2 years, particularly those members including Prof. CHENG Man Chung, Daniel, Sr Prof. WONG Bay, Dr. HO Shu Kwong, Raymond, Dr. LAU Wai Neng, Michael, Dr. WONG Siu Wing, Eric, Ms. LEE Pik Yee, Peggy, Ms. KAM Kin and Mr. YEUNG Wai Sing who would retire from the Committee after this term.
- 6.2 Members were also thankful for the Chairman’s remarkable leadership and contributions to the Committee in the past eight years.
- 6.3 There being no other business, the Chairman thanked Members for attending the meeting and adjourned the meeting at 3:50 p.m.