

Advisory Committee on Water Supplies (2020-2022)
Minutes of First Meeting

Date: 26 June 2020 (Friday)

Time: 2:00 p.m.

Venue: Room 4819, Water Supplies Department, 48/F, Immigration Tower,
7 Gloucester Road, Wan Chai, Hong Kong

Present

Prof KWAN Kai Cho, Joseph	Chairman
Prof CHAN Yan Keung, Thomas	Member
Prof CHIU Pauline	Member
Prof CHU Wei	Member
Prof SHIH Kaimin	Member
Prof WONG Wing Tak	Member
Prof WU Xun	Member
Dr WONG TAAM Chi Woon, Vivian	Member
Ir NG Chun Keung	Member
Ir TANG Ming Sum, Michelle	Member
Mr AU YEUNG Chi King, Artur	Member
Mr CHEUNG Hau Wai	Member
Mr LAM Yat Fung, James	Member
Mr LAU Che Feng, Edwin	Member
Mr LI Kam Wong, Arthur	Member
Mr TAM Kwok Wing, Ivan	Member
Ms WONG Chi Shun, Carol	Member
Mr WONG Kwun Kit, William	Member
Mr YAU Kam Wing	Member
Mr YIU Ming, Jeff	Member
Ms YUEN Yan Ling, Elaine	Member
Mr WONG Chung Leung	Member (Water Supplies Department)
Mr CHAN Tak Yeung, Thomas	Member (Development Bureau)
Ms HO Kit Yee, Kitty	Member (Architectural Services Department)
Mr HO Yiu Kwong	Member (Drainage Services Department)
Mr CHEN Che Kong	Member (Environmental Protection Department)
Dr CHOW Chor Yiu, Tony	Member (Department of Health)
Mr LAM Ho Yin, Ricky	Member (Housing Department)
Mr LAW Yuk Fat, Robin	Secretary (Water Supplies Department)

Water Supplies Department Representatives in Attendance

Mr WONG Yan Lok, Roger	Assistant Director
Mr CHOY Tak Yip	Chief Chemist
Mr NG Chi Yuen, James	Senior Engineer
Mr LO Tsz Lung, Warren	Senior Engineer
Mr LAU Cheuk Fung, Calvin	Senior Engineer
Ms FUNG Bo Yin, Anthea	Engineer (Note-Taker)

Absent with Apologies

Sr WONG Kwok Leung, Paul	Member
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Item

1. Opening Remarks

- 1.1 The Chairman welcomed all Members and representatives of Water Supplies Department (WSD) to the first meeting of Advisory Committee on Water Supplies (ACWS) for the term of 2020-22.
- 1.2 The Chairman greeted the new Members joining the ACWS and expressed thanks to the retired Members including, Ir Dr CHAN Hon Fai, 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 for their contributions over the years.
- 1.3 The Chairman reminded Members of 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 sent to Members by email on 18 June 2020. Members noted.

Agenda Items

2. Election of Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen for Working Groups

- 2.1 The Chairman advised that there were three working groups (WGs) viz. **WG on Operational Matters**, **WG on Government Network and Inside Service** and **WG on Water Conservation and Education** under ACWS for the term

2020-2022. The Secretary then gave a brief introduction on the Terms of Reference (ToR) of the WGs, as follow:-

WG on Operational Matters

To keep under review and advise on:

- a. Various operational matters related to water supplies including compliance with relevant legislation standards and requirements;
- b. Operation of the water quality monitoring programmes; and
- c. Regulation and control of plumbing materials and plumbing installations.

WG on Government Network and Inside Service

To keep under review and advise on

- a. Government network management, in particular, its preventive maintenance, repair, rehabilitation and water loss management;
- b. Smart water initiatives in government network; and
- c. Regulation and control of inside service, in particular, its maintenance and water loss.

WG on Water Conservation and Education

To keep under review and advise on:

- a. Public engagement and education programme to promote water conservation;
- b. Youth participation in water conservation;
- c. Collaboration with Green Groups/NGOs/Schools on water conservation;
- d. Water conservation initiatives; and
- e. Promotion on use of Water Efficiency Labeling Scheme (WELS) products including implementation of mandatory WELS.

- 2.2 The Chairman invited nominations from Members for the Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of the WGs. After discussion, the Meeting agreed on the Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of the WGs as follow:-

	WG on Operational Matters	WG on Government Network and Inside Service	WG on Water Conservation and Education
Chairman	Prof WONG Wing Tak	Mr TAM Kwok Wing, Ivan	Mr LAU Che Feng, Edwin
Vice-Chairman	Ir TANG Ming Sum, Michelle	Ir NG Chun Keung	Ms WONG Chi Shun, Carol

3. Membership of Working Groups

- 3.1 The Chairman invited the Secretary to brief Members on the enrolment of the WGs. The Secretary advised that Members could join any WGs on a voluntary basis. WG meetings would be held on a regular basis and non-WG members would be welcome to attend the WG meetings.
- 3.2 The Secretary advised that the secretariat would send an email after this WSD meeting to invite Members to join the WGs. He added that co-opt/ad-hoc members might also be invited to join the WG meetings on need basis to contribute to the work of WGs.

4. Water Quality Data of Dongjiang Water Received at Muk Wu Pumping Station for the Period from April 2019 to March 2020

- 4.1 The Chairman invited Mr CHOY Tak Yip of WSD to brief Members on the water quality data of the Dongjiang (DJ) water received at Muk Wu Pumping Station for the period of April 2019 to March 2020.
- 4.2 Members agreed that the water quality data for the concerned period was satisfactory. The meeting endorsed the water quality data, and WSD would upload the data onto WSD's website.

5. WSD's Actions in Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic

- 5.1 The Chairman invited Mr CHOY Tak Yip of WSD to brief Members on WSD's actions in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- 5.2 The Chairman appreciated the efforts of WSD in formulating and taking proactive and preventive measures to cope with the pandemic in provision of safe water supplies to the public.
- 5.3 Mr LAU Che Feng, Edwin asked whether there was a noticeable increase in water consumption in domestic and commercial sectors during the pandemic for the past few months comparing to the same period of the previous year. Mr WONG Chung Leung of WSD replied that separate figures for domestic and commercial water consumption were not yet available but there was a

slight increase in total fresh water consumption in the first five months of 2020 when comparing to the same period of the previous year.

6. Any Other Business

- 6.1 In response to the enquiry from Prof SHIH Kaimin, Mr WONG Chung Leung of WSD advised that WSD had been following the international development in respect of microplastics in drinking water. WSD had engaged an Australian specialist to carry out a desktop research on this subject including review of standards and testing methods on microplastics in drinking water but noted that there yet to have an internationally recognized drinking water standard and standardized testing method for microplastics. Mr CHOY Tak Yip of WSD supplemented that the World Health Organisation had published a report in 2019 which considered that, based on the limited evidence available, microplastics in drinking water posed a low concern to human health. Mr LAU Che Feng, Edwin advised that he could share with WSD on some foreign research articles on microplastics in water. Mr WONG Chung Leung of WSD thanked Mr Edwin LAU for the information.
- 6.2 The Secretary advised that the feasibility of conducting the annual visit to the DJ Water Supply System this year was still under review in view of the COVID-19 pandemic and would inform Members once decision was made. WSD
- 6.3 The Secretary advised that the ACWS meetings would usually be held every four months and the next meeting would be in October/November 2020 subject to confirmation.
- 6.4 There being no further item raised, the Chairman thanked Members for attending the meeting and adjourned the meeting at 3:30 p.m.