

Advisory Committee on the Quality of Water Supplies

Minutes of Meeting No. 18

Date: 15 April 2009 (Wednesday)

Time: 10 : 50 a.m.

Venue: Conference Room, Ngau Tam Mei Water Treatment Works, Yuen Long

Members Present

Prof. HO Kin Chung	Chairman
Mr. MA Lee Tak	Vice-Chairman, Director of Water Supplies
Dr. CHAN Hon Fai	Cinotech Consultants Limited
Dr. NG Cho Nam	The University of Hong Kong
Mr. WONG Kwok Hay, Samuel	Wong & Fok Solicitors
Mr. CHAN Sheung Yan, Kenneth	Chun Lee Engineering Co. Ltd
Prof. WONG Chun Yu, Benjamin	Queen Mary Hospital
Prof. YU Chai Mei, Jimmy	The Chinese University of Hong Kong
Ms. WONG Wai Lan, Luciana	Business Environment Council
Mr. POON Lock Kee, Rocky	NWS Engineering Group Ltd
Dr. SHIN Kam Shing, Paul	The City University of Hong Kong
Mr. LAM Ka Fai, Aaron	Sham Shui Po District Council
Ms. TONG Po Chun	Sha Tin District Council
Ms. WONG Pik Yan, Nicole	World Wide Fund for Nature Hong Kong
Mr. YAU Pak Hang, Andy	Chief Assistant Secretary, Development Bureau
Ms. CHU Lan Ying	Assistant Director, Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
Dr. LEUNG Ting Hung	Consultant Community Medicine, Department of Health
Mr. LUK Tsz Wai	Senior Maintenance Surveyor, Housing Department
Mr. MAK Shing Cheung, Vincent	Secretary Senior Engineer, Water Supplies Department

Members Absent with Apologies

Prof. CHEN Yongqin, David	The Chinese University of Hong Kong
Ms. HO Siu Fong, Betty	Plan Arch Consultants Ltd.
Mr. CHAN Han Pan	Tsuen Wan District Council
Mr. TANG Kin Fai	Assistant Director, Environmental Protection Department

In Attendance

Mr. CHAN Kwong Wei, Samuel	Deputy Director, Water Supplies Department
Mr. NG Mang Tung, Bobby	Assistant Director, Water Supplies Department
Mr. CHAN Kin Man	Chief Chemist, Water Supplies Department
Mr. LAU Kan Kwok	Senior Engineer, Water Supplies Department
Mr. SUEN Kwok Keung	Senior Engineer, Water Supplies Department
Mr. WONG Chung Leung	Senior Engineer, Water Supplies Department
Mr. LOK Chi Chung	Engineer, Water Supplies Department
Mr. CHAU Shu Man	Engineer, Electrical & Mechanical Services Department

1. The Chairman welcomed everyone to the Meeting. He announced that Mrs. YIU TANG Kwai Sin had replaced Mr. LEE Kwok Wing as the Representative of Housing Department and took the opportunity to thank Mr. LEE for his contribution to the ACQWS. He also noted that Prof. CHEN Yongqin, Ms. HO Siu Fong, Mr. CHAN Han Pan, Mr. CHAN Yun Cheung (the Representative of Development Bureau), Mr. TANG Kin Fai (the Representative of Environmental Protection Department) and Mrs. YIU TANG Kwai Sin (the Representative of Housing Department) were not available to attend the meeting. The Chairman welcomed Mr. YAU Pak Hang and Mr. LUK Tsz Wai who attended the meeting on behalf of Mr. CHAN Yun Cheung and Mrs. YIU TANG Kwai Sin respectively.
2. Agenda Item 1 : Confirmation of Minutes of the Last Meeting
 - 2.1 The minutes were confirmed without any amendment.
3. Agenda Item 2 : Matters Arising
 - 3.1 Quality of Water in Buildings

Quality Water Recognition Scheme for Buildings (QWRSB)

 - 3.1.1 Mr. LAU Kan Kwok reported to the Committee on the public's response to the Announcement in the Public Interest (API) broadcasted since May 2008 and the number of new applications for the Scheme since the launching of the API as follows:-
 - (a) The API in TV and Radio was broadcasted since May 2008 and posters were displayed on buses and at bus stops to promote the QWRSB. Two diagrams showing the number

of new certificates issued and the number of households covered by the Scheme was distributed to Members during the meeting. It was observed from the diagrams that:-

- (i) There was no significant change in the number of new applications (new certificates issued) immediately after the launching of the API. It might be due to the fact that applicants had to take normally 6 months to acquire and prepare their maintenance records including cleaning of water tank and inspection of plumbing installations before submitting their applications for WSD's assessment.
- (ii) The number of new certificates issued and the number of households covered by the Scheme were on an increasing trend.

- (b) Mr. LAU Kan Kwok would report in the next meeting the updated number of new applications. WSD

3.2 Publication of Water Quality Data

3.2.1 Mr. CHAN Kin Man said that the Working Group on Publication of Water Quality Data had met on 28.5.2008 and 17.11.2008 to examine water quality data.

3.2.2 Mr. CHAN Kin Man reported that:-

- (a) The water quality data covering the period from 1 April 2007 to 31 March 2008 for the Dongjiang water received at Muk Wu Pumping Station and the drinking water in Hong Kong had been uploaded to WSD's website on 10 June 2008. The data illustrated that the quality of both the Dongjiang water received at Muk Wu and the drinking water supplied to consumers of Hong Kong complied respectively

with the national standard set out for Type II waters in the Environmental Quality Standards for Surface Water GB3838-2002 (hereinafter referred to as GB3838-2002) and the World Health Organization Guidelines for Drinking-water Quality of 2004 (WHO 2004).

- (b) The water quality data for the period from 1 October 2007 to 30 September 2008 had also been uploaded to WSD's website on 20 November 2008. The water quality data again demonstrated compliance with GB3838-2002 and WHO 2006.
- (c) With effect from 1 April 2008, WSD commenced adopting WHO 2006 for monitoring of the drinking water quality.
- (d) The next update of water quality data for the period from 1 April 2008 to 31 March 2009 would be scheduled for May 2009. WSD

3.3 Visit to Guangdong

- 3.3.1 Mr NG Mang Tung reported that the delegation consisting of 9 Members of the Committee and 4 Government officials paid a visit to the Dongjiang Water Supply System and associated facilities from 25 to 27 November 2008. The delegation visited the Xinfengjiang Reservoir, Huizhou Boluo Sewage Treatment Plant, Taiyuan Pumping Station, Shima River Sewage Diversion Project, Qiling Pumping Station, Shishan Open Aqueduct, Dongshen Water Supply Improvement Works Exhibition Centre, and the Shenzhen Reservoir including the Bio-nitrification Plant, the Control and Monitoring Centre, the Exhibition Centre and the Reservoir Dam. A press briefing was held after the delegation returned to Wan Chai headquarters of WSD in the afternoon on 27.11.2008. After presenting a short video highlighting various parts of the visit, attendants were briefed by the Chairman – Prof. HO Kin Chung and four members, namely, Dr. CHAN Hon Fai,

Ms. WONG Wai Lan, Mr. POON Lock Kee and Ms. TONG Po Chun on their observations during the 3-day visit.

The Chairman supplemented that the visit report had been issued to all Members and posted on WSD's website.

- 3.3.2 Mr. NG Mang Tung advised Members that another visit would be arranged later this year and invited Members' views on places to be visited.

Dr. CHAN Hon Fai said that a 2-day trip might not be long enough to visit those key places/facilities of the Dongjiang Water Supply System (DWSS). The Chairman agreed that since the public would wish the Committee to provide an update of the latest progress and development on protecting the quality of Dongjiang water, a 3-day trip would be necessary to visit the key places/facilities. He further pointed out that since sufficient time was allowed for the recent visit, the delegation had the opportunity to take a boat ride on the Xinfengjiang Reservoir and satisfactorily appraise measures taken to protect the quality of water. Dr. CHAN added that the visit to the Dongshen Police Command Centre and the Dongshen Water Supply System Monitoring and Control Centre allowed the delegation to have better understanding of the security measures adopted for protecting the Dedicated Aqueduct and the Dongjiang water.

After discussions, the majority of Members indicated preference for a 3-day trip such that key places/facilities of the DWSS could be visited. In view that some Members might have difficulties to join the entire trip, Dr. CHAN Hon Fai and Ms. TONG Po Chun suggested that arrangements be explored for some of the delegation to join only part of the trip.

WSD

Item	Action
<p>3.3.3 Thanking Members for their suggestions, <u>Mr. NG Mang Tung</u> promised Members to follow up with the Guangdong Authorities and notify Members of the details of the proposed visit in due course.</p>	WSD
<p>3.3.4 In response to <u>Dr. SHIN Kam Shing</u>'s enquiry on a recent press report on pollution of the Shenzhen Reservoir, where Dongjiang water to Hong Kong would route through, <u>Mr. NG Mang Tung</u> reported that on March 19, after receiving phone enquiries from the media on the incident, WSD immediately contacted the Guangdong authorities under the established mechanisms to obtain first-hand information. On the following day, he and <u>Mr. MAK Shing Cheung</u>, accompanied by officials of the Department of Water Resources of Guangdong Province and Dongshen Water Resource Protection Office of the Shenzhen Municipal Government, visited the reported location of pollution. It was noted that the reported pollution was at Dawang Village near Wutongshan River, that was some 500 metres upstream of the Shenzhen Reservoir. The polluting sources were small in scale, and the authorities concerned had promptly removed them on March 19. It was also observed that there were no appreciable changes or deterioration of the quality of Dongjiang water.</p>	
<p>3.3.5 The Chairman stated that in response to Members' request, WSD would arrange a visit to the Muk Wu Pumping Station after the meeting in the afternoon. It was noted that <u>Dr. NG Cho Nam</u> would be unable to attend the visit due to other commitments.</p>	
<p>3.4 Reclaimed Water Reuse</p>	
<p>3.4.1 <u>Mr. NG Mang Tung</u> reported that:-</p> <p>(a) The consultant had completed the review on the use of</p>	

reclaimed water at Ngong Ping and submitted the final review report in February 2009.

- (b) The review included a public opinion survey regarding the use of reclaimed water in Hong Kong. The results of the survey indicated that the public was very supportive of the use of reclaimed water for toilet flushing and other non-potable uses.
- (c) The unit cost of producing and supplying reclaimed water at Ngong Ping was about HK\$3/m³ in 2008 price level. The unit cost might be lower if the volume of production were increased.
- (d) The consultant of Environmental Protection Department had also submitted the final report on the Shek Wu Hui Demonstration Scheme. WSD would examine the review results of the two schemes and explore the feasibility of supplying reclaimed water to the customers in Sheung Shui and Fanling for toilet flushing and other non-potable uses.

WSD

3.5 Public Education

3.5.1 The Chairman advised that the Working Group on Public Education had held a meeting on 11.11.2008 and invited Mr. SUEN Kwok Keung to report to Members on public education activities held since the last meeting.

3.5.2 Mr. SUEN reported that the following public education activities had been carried out since the last meeting:-

- (a) A media interview in May 2008 given to Sing Tao Daily on replacement and rehabilitation of water mains (R&R).
- (b) The new promotion campaign for the Quality Water Recognition Scheme for Buildings (QWRSB) launched in May 2008, including new API in TV and Radio, posters

and leaflets.

- (c) The Certificate Presentation Ceremony of the QWRSB held on 11.9.2008 and followed by newspaper supplement on 19.9.2008.
- (d) World Water Monitoring Day activities at High Island Reservoir held on 28.9.2008 to promote public awareness and participation of water resources and quality.
- (e) The public waterworks seminar held on 8.10.2008.
- (f) Enhancing the water conservation webpage in October 2008.
- (g) A press briefing on 12.11.2008 on the Total Water Management (TWM) Strategy in Hong Kong.
- (h) Joining the “Science in the Public Service” campaign’s fun fair from 14 to 16.11.2008 by operating three booths to promote (1) R & R, (2) leakage management technology, and (3) renewable energy car.
- (i) Open Day of Pak Kong Water Treatment Works on 6.12.2008 to enhance public knowledge on water supply and promote water conservation.
- (j) An interview in January 2009 given to the media on rapid water quality testing method.
- (k) Publication of a newspaper supplement on World Water Day (22.3.2009) to promote water conservation and TWM.
- (l) Conducting the first phase of a water conservation campaign in January 2009 for primary schools to promote water conservation to primary school students (more details to be covered under agenda item no. 3).

Mr. SUEN expressed gratitude to Members for their valuable advice and suggestions given in the last meeting on public education work.

3.5.3 The Chairman recapitulated that in the last meeting, Members had raised concerns on the safety and health aspects of using drinking fountains and requested WSD to work with other Government departments to address the concerns. In response to the Chairman, Mr. LAU Kan Kwok reported that:-

- (a) Regarding the concern on the safety and health aspects of using drinking fountains particularly the misuse of fountains by students, the Centre for Health Protection of the Department of Health had issued “Guidelines for Using Drinking Fountain in Schools” listing out the precautionary measures to be adopted by schools. Also, the Secretary for Education had issued a letter attaching the above guidelines to supervisors / principals of all kindergartens, kindergarten cum child care centres, secondary schools, primary schools and special schools in April 2008.
- (b) Regarding the concern on filters used in the drinking fountains and the potential water quality problems:-
 - (i) All drinking fountains at venues managed by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) (comprising mainly squash courts, badminton courts, soccer pitches etc) had been installed with a filter cartridge or an ultra-violet steriliser to ensure the purity of the water. LCSD had all along carried out regular maintenance and cleansing of the drinking fountains according to the guidelines provided by the drinking fountain manufacturers. LCSD had, apart from stepping up efforts to cleanse and disinfect the drinking fountains, displayed next to all drinking fountains a copy of the advice and notice issued by the Department of Health on the hygienic use of

drinking fountains to educate the public on the proper and hygienic use of the drinking fountains.

- (ii) For the provision of drinking fountains in new projects, the Architectural Services Department would propose the use of ultra-violet sterilisers as far as practicable to address potential maintenance and cleansing problems of using such filters.

- 3.5.4 On Dr. NG Cho Nam's suggestion in the last meeting for WSD to consider reviewing the terms of reference of the Committee for the next term such to cover not only water quality but also water conservation issues, Mr. NG Mang Tung advised that although water conservation was not explicitly included in the current terms of reference, topics or issues relating to water conservation, such as the TWM strategy, had in fact been discussed in previous meetings. Dr. NG requested WSD to take into account views expressed by Members while reviewing the terms of reference of the Committee for the next term. WSD

3.6 Total Water Management Strategy in Hong Kong

- 3.6.1 Mr. NG Mang Tung thanked Members for their valuable advices/recommendations given in the last meeting on TWM strategy in Hong Kong, which covered aspects of water conservation, public education, use of water saving devices, use of reclaimed water etc. Mr. NG stated that WSD had taken the advices/recommendations into account in implementing the TWM strategy.

He informed Members that WSD had visited the Water Conservation Office of the Water Resources Department of Guangdong Province and the City Water Conservation Office of

Guang Zhou Shi to share their experience in respect of water conservation. WSD would make reference to their experience in implementing various water conservation measures. He also advised Members that WSD had attended the Hotel Business Liaison Group meeting chaired by the Business Facilitation Division of Financial Secretary's Office to consult the hotel trade on the Hong Kong Voluntary Water Efficiency Labelling Scheme (WELS) on shower heads for bathing.

- 4 Agenda Item 3 : Water Conservation Campaign for Primary Schools
(ACQWS Paper No. 01/2009 – for information)

4.1 ACQWS paper No. 01/2009, namely “Water Conservation Campaign for Primary Schools Students” (the Campaign), had been distributed to Members before the meeting. Mr. SUEN Kwok Keung first expressed his gratitude to the valuable advices and suggestions given by the Working Group on Public Education, particularly its chairlady – Ms. WONG Pik Yan in formulating the campaign. Mr. SUEN then presented to Members the details of the campaign and invited comments from Members.

4.2 Ms. WONG Pik Yan elaborated that the campaign would enable students to learn the importance of water conservation, develop water saving habits and influence their family members' water usage habits. Dr. LEUNG Ting Hung considered the campaign a meaningful event, and that schools were an appropriate and suitable forum for the promotion of water conservation. Dr. LEUNG observed that the cooperation between schools and students' parents would be crucial to the success of the campaign and suggested therefore that parents or the Parent-Teacher

Associations might also be invited to be one of the partners to promote the campaign.

- 4.3 Mr. SUEN Kwok Keung said that in Phase 2 of the campaign WSD would prepare and distribute an information/competition kit to all primary schools (about 680 in number). The schools would be advised that WSD would arrange roadshows on water conservation on request. Mr. SUEN also reported from his observations during recent visits to primary schools that students demonstrated good knowledge of water conservation and responded enthusiastically to roadshows on the subject.

- 4.4 Ms. TONG Po Chun suggested that WSD should consider holding briefing sessions for schools so that they could use the information/competition kits to talk to their students on their own weekly assemblies or during the class. She stated that some organisations had successfully adopted such approach for promotion of educational information to schools and students. WSD

- 4.5 Dr. CHAN Hon Fai suggested that in order to arouse students' awareness of the importance of water conservation, students should be told that water resources were scarce worldwide and many people in other parts of the world were facing the problems brought by the lack of water resources.

Thanking Members for their suggestions, Mr. SUEN Kwok Keung said that the scarcity of water was one of the main themes in our roadshow and information kit on water conservation.

Ms. WONG Pik Yan added that the campaign might enrich the students' knowledge of water conservation, bring to them concepts such as "Water Footprint", to let the students realise that

the water they consumed included both the water that they used directly in drinking, bathing and washing etc, and the water that they used indirectly – the water used in the production and distribution of the services and goods they consumed.

4.6	The Chairman suggested that WSD should identify some participating schools and help them achieve good performance in the campaign so that they could be promoted as models for other schools.	WSD
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4.7	<u>Dr. CHAN Hon Fai</u> and <u>Dr. NG Cho Nam</u> opined and Members agreed that the water consumption figures of the participating schools should also be taken into account in assessing their performance under the campaign.	
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4.8	<u>Mr. LAM Ka Fai</u> suggested that apart from primary and secondary schools, WSD should also arrange activities to promote water conservation to universities because the water consumptions of universities were also significant. The Chairman agreed with the suggestion and invited WSD's arrangement of activities to promote water conservation at universities, such as the Open University of Hong Kong.	WSD
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4.9	Members discussed on whether awards could be granted to those good performers of the campaign. The Chairman suggested for WSD's consideration that a certificate presentation ceremony, similar to that for the Quality Water Recognition Scheme for Buildings, might be arranged for promoting the campaign.	WSD
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5	Agenda Item 4 : The Hong Kong Voluntary Water Efficiency Labelling Scheme (WELS) on Shower Heads for Bathing	
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5.1 Mr. NG Mang Tung first gave a brief introduction of the WELS on Shower Heads for Bathing. Mr. WONG Chung Leung then presented to Members the details of the proposed Scheme and invited comments from Members.

5.2 Dr. NG Cho Nam welcomed the introduction of WELS. He pointed out that to achieve successful results, the Government should take a lead to install water-saving showers in government projects and buildings and invite private developers to follow. Considerable demand for water-saving showers would then be created, so that the trade would be more prepared to participate in the voluntary Scheme.

Mr. WONG Chung Leung agreed with Dr. NG and advised that WSD would liaise with relevant government departments, such as the Architectural Services Department and the Housing Department, with a view to specifying the use of water-saving shower heads in their projects.

5.3	In response to <u>Mr. LAM Ka Fai</u> , <u>Mr. WONG Chung Leung</u> advised that as water for bathing amounted to about 30% of the domestic consumption, and that for washing machine was about 20% to 30%, WELS on shower heads for bathing was to be launched first, and that on washing machine would be considered in the following stage. He explained that the use of dishwasher was not so popular in Hong Kong and so the introduction of WELS for dishwashers would be considered in a later stage.	WSD
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5.4 Dr. LEUNG Ting Hung observed that the participation of government departments and private organisations to use water-saving showers in their facilities/venues would be crucial to the success of the Scheme. He then gave example that the

LCSD should use more water-saving shower heads at the sports/leisure facilities they managed, such as sport centres, swimming pools and beaches.

The Chairman agreed with Dr. LEUNG and suggested that the Scheme should cover water taps as well.

Mr. CHAN Sheung Yan who had participated in the consultation on the Scheme, shared the same view and pointed out that water saving from water taps could be easily achieved by a well designed spring system inside the water taps.

Mr. WONG Chung Leung responded that water taps would be covered by the Scheme at a later stage. WSD

- 5.5 Dr. SHIN Kam Shing asked if “WELS” was an internationally recognized term.

Mr. WONG Chung Leung responded that apart from Hong Kong, the term had been used in Australia and Singapore, and the trade should be familiar with it.

- 5.6 Mr. LAM Ka Fai asked, and Mr. WONG Chung Leung advised that the Chinese translation of WELS was “用水效益標籤計劃”.

6. Agenda Item 5 : Any Other Business

- 6.1 No item was raised by the Members.

7. There being no other business, the Meeting was adjourned at 12:45 p.m.