

# Advisory Committee on the Quality of Water Supplies

## Minutes of Meeting No. 20

**Date:** 20 May 2010 (Thursday)

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

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

### Present

|                               |  |
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| Prof. HO Kin Chung            | Chairman<br>The Open University of Hong Kong                                 |
| Mr. MA Lee Tak                | Vice-Chairman<br>Director of Water Supplies<br>Chun Lee Engineering Co. Ltd. |
| Mr. CHAN Sheung Yan, Kenneth  | World Wide Fund for Nature Hong Kong   |
| Ms. WONG Pik Yan, Nicole      | NWS Engineering Group Ltd.   |
| Mr. POON Lock Kee, Rocky      | Plan Arch Consultants Ltd.   |
| Ms. HO Siu Fong, Betty        | The City University of Hong Kong   |
| Dr. SHIN Kam Shing, Paul      | The University of Hong Kong  |
| Dr. WONG Chun Yu, Benjamin    | LNS Ltd.   |
| Ms. WONG Wai Lan, Luciana     | City University of Hong Kong   |
| Dr. CHEUNG Yun Hing, Richard  | Kung Tong District Council   |
| Mr. CHAN Man Kin              | Wan Chai District Council  |
| Ms. LEE Kwun Yee, Kenny       | Sai Kung District Council  |
| Ms. FONG Kwok Shan, Christine | Hong Kong Productivity Council   |
| Mr. WONG Siu Wai, Kenny       | Wong & Fok Solicitors  |
| Ms. SO Yee Ching, Phyllis     | Principal Assistant Secretary<br>Development Bureau                          |
| Mr. CHUI Wing Wah             | Consultant<br>Department of Health   |
| Dr. LEUNG Ting Hung           | Assistant Director<br>Food and Environmental Hygiene Department              |
| Ms. CHU Lan Ying              | Assistant Director<br>Environmental Protection Department                    |
| Mr. TANG Kin Fai              | Assistant Director<br>Housing Department                                     |
| Mr. CHAN Siu Tack             | Secretary<br>Senior Engineer, Water Supplies Department                      |
| Mr. LI Kan Kay                |  |

### Water Supplies Department Representatives in Attendance

|                         |   |
|-------------------------|---|
| Mr. NG Mang Tung, Bobby | Assistant Director, Water Supplies Department     |
| Mr. CHAU Chi Wai, David | Acting Deputy 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. CHEUNG Hung Cheong  | Engineer, Water Supplies Department (Notes Taker) |

### Absent with Apologies

|                          |                                     |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Prof. YU Chai Mei, Jimmy | The Chinese University of Hong Kong |
| Prof. CHAU Kwai Cheong   | The Chinese University of Hong Kong |

**Opening Remarks**

- 1.1 The Chairman welcomed all Members and representatives of Water Supplies Department to the 20<sup>th</sup> Meeting. The Chairman announced that this meeting was the first meeting of the sixth two-year term (1 April 2010 to 31 March 2012) of Advisory Committee on the Quality of Water Supplies (the Committee). He remarked that it was a great honour for him to be re-appointed for another term as the Chairman of the Committee. He invited all Members and representatives of Water Supplies Department (WSD) to work together with him as a team and advise the Government on matters relating to the quality of water supplies.
- 1.2 The Chairman expressed special thanks to the seven retired Members including, Dr. CHAN Hon Fai, Prof. CHEN Yongqin, David, Mr. WONG Kwok Hay, Samuel, Mr. LAM Ka Fai, Aaron, Dr. NG Cho Nam, Ms. TONG Po Chun and Mr CHAN Han Pan for their contribution in the past.
- 1.3 The Chairman welcomed seven new Members, including Mr. WONG Siu Wai, Kenny, Dr. CHEUNG Yun Hing, Richard, Prof. CHAU Kwai Cheong, Ms. SO Yee Ching, Phyllis, Ms. LEE Kwun Yee, Kenny, Ms. FONG Kwok Shan, Christine, Mr. CHAN Man Kin for joining the Committee.
- 1.4 The Chairman also informed the meeting that Prof. YU Chai Mei, Jimmy and Prof. CHAU Kwai Cheong had sent in their apology for not being able to attend the meeting. In particular, he informed the meeting that Mr. CHAN Siu Tack had replaced Mr. MA Kam Chuen as the representative of the Housing Department, Mr. CHAU Chi Wai, David had replaced Mr. CHAN Kwong Wei, Samuel, who was on leave and Mr. LI Kan Kay had replaced Mr. MAK Shing Cheung, Vincent as the Secretary of this Committee.
- 1.5 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 was distributed to Members at the meeting.
- 1.6 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.
- 1.7 The Chairman also introduced the background and the works of the Committee.

**Agenda Items****Confirmation of the Minutes of the 19<sup>th</sup> Meeting held on 8 March 2010**

- 2.1 The Secretary reported that the draft minutes of the 19<sup>th</sup> Meeting had been circulated to Members for comment and that initial comments had been received and incorporated in the revised draft minutes distributed at the Meeting. There being no further amendment proposed at the Meeting, the Chairman announced the minutes of the 19<sup>th</sup> Meeting were confirmed.

**Matters Arising**

| Item   | Action |
|--|--------|
| <b>3 Quality of Water in Buildings - Quality Water Recognition Scheme for Buildings (QWRSB)</b>  |        |
| <b>3.1</b> The Chairman invited <u>Mr. LAU Kan Kwok</u> of WSD to brief Members on the progress of QWRSB review.   |        |
| <b>3.2</b> <u>Mr. LAU Kan Kwok</u> reported on the progress of QWRSB review as follows:  | WSD    |
| (a) In the new or renewal applications, participants were required to fill in the age of the building in the revised application form. <u>Mr. LAU</u> said that the collection of data on the age of buildings of existing participants had commenced.   |        |
| (b) WSD was drafting a survey proposal to engage an independent consultant in the year to conduct a survey on two specific topics, namely the views of the general public on the quality of tap water in domestic buildings and on the QWRSB, and the views of private property management companies on the maintenance of plumbing systems in buildings and on the QWRSB. The draft survey proposal would be ready in September this year for the endorsement of the Working Group on Quality of Water in Buildings.  |        |
| (c) It was suggested in last meeting to print out the names of those contributed towards obtaining the QWRSB certificate in recognition of their participation in the scheme. <u>Mr. LAU</u> said that after initial investigation, it was noted that there were many parties that were making contributions including, building management agents, building service contractors, building service engineers, licensed plumbers and cleaning service companies, etc. A proposal would be prepared and submitted to the Working Group on Quality of Water in Buildings for endorsement. |        |
| <b>3.3</b> The Chairman asked Members to give comments on <u>Mr. LAU</u> 's report. The views and comments were summarised as follows:   |        |
| (a) <u>Mr. MA Lee Tak</u> suggested and <u>Mr. LAU</u> agreed that the draft survey <b>WSD</b> proposal would be submitted in August this year for the endorsement of the Working Group on Quality of Water in Buildings and the conduct of survey should be expedited such that the survey results would be completed and ready for the review by Members of the current term. <u>Mr. MA</u> also suggested that the time to complete the collection of data on the age of buildings of existing participants should be discussed in the Working Group meeting.                       |        |
| <b>3.4</b> The Chairman remarked that <u>Mr. CHAN Sheung Yan, Kenneth</u> , was the Chairperson of the Working Group on Quality of Water in Buildings of the previous term. The Chairman invited nominations for the new Chairperson. There being no nomination, he suggested and Members unanimously agreed that <u>Mr. CHAN Sheung Yan, Kenneth</u> was to be re-elected as the Chairperson of the Working Group on Quality of Water in Buildings for another term.  |        |
| <b>4 Publication of Water Quality Data</b>   |        |
| <b>4.1</b> The Chairman invited <u>Mr. CHAN Kin Man</u> of WSD to report the latest progress of  |        |

publication of water quality data. Mr. CHAN reported that the compilation of the updated water quality data of both Dongjiang water received at Muk Wu Pumping Station and the drinking water supply in Hong Kong for the period from 1 April 2009 to 31 March 2010 had been completed. A meeting of the Working Group **WSD** on Publication of Water Quality Data would be convened in due course to endorse the data before uploading to WSD's website.

- 4.2** The Chairman informed the Meeting that Dr. CHAN Hon Fai, the previous Chairperson of the Working Group on Publication of Water Quality Data, had retired from the ACQWS. The Chairman invited nominations for the new Chairperson. There being no nomination, he suggested and Members unanimously agreed that Dr. CHEUNG was to be elected as the Chairperson of the Working Group on Publication of Water Quality Data for the term.

## **5 Visit to Guangdong**

- 5.1** The Chairman invited Mr. NG Mang Tung to report the visit.
- 5.2** Mr. NG reported that the Committee would pay visit to Guangdong around November each year to gain a better understanding on the Dongjiang water supply scheme and the latest progress and development on protecting the quality of Dongjiang water made by Guangdong authorities. A delegation of the Committee visited the three major reservoirs in the upstream of Dongjiang namely Fengshuba Reservoir, Xinfengjiang Reservoir and Baipenzhu Reservoir in November last year. These three reservoirs were being used to regulate the flow in Dongjiang to ensure that the water quality and the water supply to Hong Kong would not be affected by the drought in China last year.
- 5.3** Mr. NG continued to elaborate that the visit of last two years to Guangdong was arranged in 3-day trip. However, the visit could also be arranged in 2-day trip. He reckoned that a 3-day trip would provide more time for Guangdong officials to communicate and discuss direct on fields with the delegation of the Committee and also it would provide Members with more flexibility to join part of the visit. Nevertheless, Mr. NG would like to seek the consensus of Members in deciding the format of visit to be used this year.
- 5.4** Ms. FONG Kwok Shan, Christine showed eagerness to join the coming visit to Guangdong and asked WSD to provide her with a video clip of last year's visit for her viewing.

(Post-meeting note: A video clip of the visit to Dongjiang in 9-11 November 2009 was sent to Ms. FONG on 1 June 2010.)

- 5.5** Other than a 3-day trip Mr. MA Lee Tak proposed that trips of shorter duration **WSD** could be explored for new Members to visit key spots of the Dongshen Water Supply System to gain understanding about the history and development of Dongjiang water supply to Hong Kong. The Chairman also suggested that visits to WSD's facilities such as service reservoirs or water treatment plants would provide good opportunities for Members to understand more about the operation of WSD.
- 5.6** The Chairman thanked Members for their suggestions and requested WSD to take **WSD** into account the above suggestions and put up proposed options for the visit.

## 6 Use of Reclaimed Water

**6.1** The Chairman invited Mr. NG Mang Tung of WSD to brief Members on the latest progress of all the follow-ups on the use of reclaimed water. Mr. NG Mang Tung reported that:

- (a) Water reclamation was of one of the initiatives under the Total Water Management (TWM) strategy of the Government. The booklets on the TWM were distributed to new members at the meeting.
- (b) Pilot schemes of water reclamation in Ngong Ping and Shek Wu Hui had been carried out and the reclaimed water had been used for toilet flushing and other non-potable uses. He remarked that due to the salinity of reclaimed water, the reclaimed water was mainly used for toilet flushing.
- (c) In the 1<sup>st</sup> meeting of the Technical Sub-Group, the following issues had been **WSD** identified:
  - to identify suitable applications of reclaimed water and to recommend reclaimed water quality standard;
  - to identify the most effective technology to be used; and
  - to work out the unit production cost of reclaimed water supply.
- (d) The cost of reclaimed water under the pilot scheme at Shek Wu Hui was higher than the production cost of fresh water. Therefore, the type of technology to be adopted would have significant impact on the cost of production and require further investigation.

**6.2** The Chairman asked Members to give comments on Mr. NG's report. Members' views and comments were summarised as follows:

- (a) Mr. POON Lock Kee, Rocky suggested that the Government should consider to provide incentives to private developers to adopt water reclamation features in their developments by granting gross floor area concessions to buildings. Mr. WONG Siu Wai, Kenny suggested that the Government should encourage private sector's participation especially from existing buildings.
- (b) Mr. MA Lee Tak agreed that initiatives of the private sector in the use of reclaimed water would be very important. Like other water conservation measures, the use of reclaimed water would contribute to the green building features as championed in the Building Environmental Assessment Method Plus (BEAM Plus). Mr. MA Lee Tak added that as the use of reclaimed water was still in the research and development stage, any incentive scheme would be considered after the relevant technology was developed and public recognition fully gained.

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

**7.1** The Chairman invited Mr. NG Mang Tung to brief the meeting on the latest situation about TOR. Mr. NG Mang Tung reported that the review of TOR was

in progress and invited Members' views, which were summarised below:

- (a) When considering revising the TOR, Members agreed that the time and resources of the Committee to deal with the proposed scope of the revised TOR should be taken into consideration.
- (b) Ms. WONG Pik Yan, Nicole quoted that the term "wise use of resources" had been adopted in many countries to cover broadly the importance of conservation of resources and energy etc.
- (c) The Chairman opined that the TOR be extended to include matters relating to WSD both water resources and water quality of water supplies and that the name of ACQWS might also need to be revised.

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

**8.1** Mr. SUEN Kwok Keung reported on the progress of the school water conservation campaign as follows:

- (a) The information kit was distributed to all primary schools in March 2010 and **WSD** the briefing sessions for school teachers were held in April 2010.
- (b) WSD would continue with Phase 2 roadshows until July 2010 and take the opportunity to identify model schools.
- (c) The pilot phase of the School Water Audit, comprising 5 primary schools, was completed in May 2010.
- (d) WSD had commenced the preparation work for the certificate presentation ceremony for school water conservation ambassadors with the date for the ceremony being 6 July 2010 tentatively.
- (e) A meeting of the Working Group on Public Education would be held in July/August after completion of Phase 2 of the school campaign.

**8.2** The Chairman informed the Meeting that Ms. WONG Pik Yan, Nicole, was the Chairperson of the Working Group on Publication Education of previous term. The Chairman invited nominations for the new Chairperson. There being no nomination, he suggested and Members unanimously agreed that Ms. WONG Pik Yan, Nicole was to be re-elected as the Chairperson of the Working Group on Publication Education for another term.

## **9 The Hong Kong Voluntary Water Efficiency Labelling Scheme (WELS) on washing machines and water taps**

**9.1** The Chairman invited Mr. NG Mang Tung to brief the meeting on the latest **WSD** situation about the implementation of WELS. Mr. NG Mang Tung reported that:

- (a) WSD would continue the implementation of WELS.
- (b) The consultation on the draft scheme document for WELS on water taps had been completed and the scheme document had been finalized and submitted

to World Trade Organization for clearance of Technical Barrier to Trade.

- (c) WSD was preparing the draft framework for WELS on washing machines for consultation with trade members and related government departments.

**10 Paperless Meeting Initiative in Committee's Meetings**

- 10.1** The Chairman invited Mr. NG Mang Tung to brief Members on the paperless meeting initiative.
- 10.2** Mr. NG reported that as there was a plan to relocate WSD office in Wanchai Government Building, it was recommended not to include ACQWS in the trial implementation of the paperless meeting initiative at this stage.
- 10.3** The Chairman suggested that meetings should be held in a paperless mode as far **WSD** as possible such as using emails for communication and PowerPoint projection to save paper.

**Any Other Business**

**11 Progress of Implementation of Total Water Management (TWM) Initiatives**

- 11.1** Mr. MA Lee Tak advised Members that he was going to address the Legislative Council Panel on Development regarding the progress of the various initiatives implementation under the TWM strategy since its promulgation in 2008. Mr. MA would like to take this opportunity to share in advance with Members of this Committee the key content of the progress report.

(Post-meeting notes: The progress of the TWM initiatives implemented in 2009 was summarized in the paper "The Progress of Implementation of Total Water Management Initiatives" presented by DWS for discussion at the Legislative Council Panel on Development Meeting held on 25 May 2010, which could be viewed in the link provided below:

[http://www.devb.gov.hk/filemanager/article/en/upload/6035/20100525\\_panel\\_paper5\\_Panel%20Paper%20\\_Eng.doc](http://www.devb.gov.hk/filemanager/article/en/upload/6035/20100525_panel_paper5_Panel%20Paper%20_Eng.doc))

- 12** Members did not raise any other items. The Chairman thanked Members for attending the Meeting. The Meeting was adjourned at 5 pm.