

Advisory Committee on the Quality of Water Supplies
Minutes of Meeting No. 22

Date: 22 July 2011 (Friday)

Time: 2:30 p.m.

Venue: Room 633 at WSD Shatin Office 6/F Sha Tin Government Offices, No. 1 Sheung Wo Che Road, Sha Tin, New Territories

Present

Prof. HO Kin Chung	Chairman The Open University of Hong Kong
Mr. MA Lee Tak	Vice-Chairman Director of Water Supplies
Ms. WONG Pik Yan, Nicole	World Wide Fund for Nature Hong Kong
Ms. HO Siu Fong, Betty	Plan Arch Consultants Ltd.
Prof. YU Chai Mei, Jimmy	The Chinese University of Hong Kong
Dr. WONG Chun Yu, Benjamin	The University of Hong Kong
Ms. WONG Wai Lan, Luciana	LNS Ltd.
Mr. WONG Siu Wai, Kenny	Hong Kong Productivity Council
Dr. CHEUNG Yun Hing, Richard	City University of Hong Kong
Ms. SO Yee Ching, Phyllis	Wong & Fok Solicitors
Ms. LEE Kwun Yee, Kenny	Wan Chai District Council
Ms. FONG Kwok Shan, Christine	Sai Kung District Council
Mr. CHAN Pai Ming, Jimmy	Principal Assistant Secretary Development Bureau
Mr. TANG Kin Fai	Assistant Director Environmental Protection Department
Mr. LAM Kam Kong	Senior Superintendent Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
Dr. LEUNG Ting Hung	Consultant Department of Health
Mr. CHAN Siu Tack	Assistant Director Housing Department
Mr. LI Kan Kay	Secretary Senior Engineer, Water Supplies Department

Water Supplies Department Representatives in Attendance

Mr. CHAN Kwong Wei	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. LAM Man Pang	Chief Engineer, Water Supplies Department
Mr. LAU Kan Kwok	Senior Engineer, Water Supplies Department
Mr. PANG Kwok Fan	Senior Engineer, Water Supplies Department
Mr. WONG Yee Shing	Engineer, Water Supplies Department (Notes Taker)

Absent with Apologies

Mr. CHAN Sheung Yan, Kenneth	Chun Lee Engineering Co. Ltd.
Mr. POON Lock Kee, Rocky	NWS Engineering Group Ltd.
Dr. SHIN Kam Shing, Paul	The City University of Hong Kong
Prof. CHAU Kwai Cheong	The Chinese University of Hong Kong
Mr. CHAN Man Kin	Kung Tong District Council
Ms. CHU Lan Ying	Assistant Director Food and Environmental Hygiene Department

Item

Action

Opening Remarks

- 1.1 The Chairman welcomed all members and representatives of Water Supplies Department (WSD) to the 22nd Meeting.
- 1.2 The Chairman informed the meeting that Mr. CHAN Sheung Yan, Kenneth, Mr. POON Lock Kee, Rocky, Dr. SHIN Kam Shing, Paul, Prof. CHAU Kwai Cheong, Mr. CHAN Man Kin, and Ms. CHU Lan Ying had sent in their apology for not being able to attend the meeting and that Mr. LAM Kam Kong was attending the meeting on behalf of Ms. CHU Lan Ying as representative of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department. He also advised that Mr. CHAN Pai Ming, Jimmy had replaced Mr. CHUI Wing Wah as the Principal Assistant Secretary of Development Bureau. The Chairman welcomed Mr. LAM and Mr. CHAN for attending the meeting for the first time.

Agenda Items

Confirmation of the Minutes of the 21st Meeting held on 16 February 2011

- 2.1 The Secretary reported that the draft minutes of the 21st Meeting had been circulated to members for comment and that initial comments had been received and incorporated in the revised draft minutes distributed before the Meeting. There being no further amendment proposed at the Meeting, the Chairman announced that the latest draft minutes of the 21st Meeting were confirmed.

Matters Arising

- 3 **Quality of Water in Buildings - Quality Water Recognition Scheme for Buildings (QWRSB)**
- 3.1 The Chairman invited Mr. LAU Kan Kwok of WSD to brief members on the progress of the QWRSB review.

3.2 Mr. LAU reported that the opinion survey conducted by an independent consultant was completed. At a meeting of the Working Group on Quality of Water in Buildings held on 18 July 2011 to discuss the findings of the survey, Members remarked that the survey results were positive and encouraging. The following suggestions for WSD's consideration were made:

- (a) Simplify the application procedures by reducing the paperwork to be submitted by applicants to participate in the QWRSB.
- (b) Increase the frequency of testing water samples. (WSD agreed to review and consider revising the sampling/testing frequency in the requirements of the QWRSB scheme.)
- (c) Install a large LED display panel on the outer wall of the WSD Mong Kok Office, to display information on QWRSB as well as other WSD promotional materials such as those on the Water Efficiency Labelling Scheme and the Total Water Management strategy.
- (d) In launching various competitions for water conservation in future, include the water quality aspect as one of the assessment criteria as far as possible in a bid to raise the public awareness of the water quality of their premises.
- (e) Explore ways for recognition of organizations/parties demonstrating an 'Outstanding performance' in the QWRSB, such as the granting of special awards to estate management agents with the largest number of buildings participating in the scheme.

3.3 Regarding the aforementioned 'Outstanding performance' award, Dr. LEUNG Ting Hung advised that the suggestion had been discussed but not adopted in previous working group meetings in view that it might be considered unfair as large organizations/parties managing a large number of building estates would probably have a better chance of winning the award.

3.4 Mr. LAU reported that he would, taking into account Members' comments, explore the feasibility of other means of recognition for the outstanding participants.

4 Publication of Water Quality Data

4.1 The Chairman invited Mr. CHAN Kin Man of WSD to report the latest progress of the publication of water quality data of Dongjiang water received in Hong Kong at Muk Wu Pumping Station and of drinking water in Hong Kong. Mr. CHAN reported that the Working Group on Publication of Water Quality Data had met on 3 June 2011 and endorsed the water quality data for the period from 1 April 2010 to 31 March 2011. The aforementioned water quality data were subsequently uploaded to WSD's website on 9 June 2011.

4.2 Mr. CHAN also reported that the quality of both Dongjiang water and drinking water complied respectively with the national standard set out for Type II waters in the “Environmental Quality Standards for Surface Water, GB3838-2002” and the World Health Organization’s “Guidelines for Drinking-water Quality, 2006”(WHO 2006).

4.3 Mr. CHAN informed the meeting that the publication of the updated water quality data from 1 October 2010 to 30 September 2011 was scheduled for November/December 2011 after endorsement by the Working Group.

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4.4 On the quality of drinking water supply in Hong Kong, Mr. CHAN advised that with effect from April 2011, the WHO 2008 had been adopted as the monitoring standard.

4.5 Mr. CHAN further briefed the meeting that WHO had launched the fourth edition of the Guidelines for the Drinking-water Quality (WHO 2011) on 4 July 2011. Compared with WHO2008, 6 chemical parameters, namely, Cyanide, Cyanogen Chloride, Manganese, Molybdenum, Permethrin and Pyriproxyfen, were deleted and 4 new health-related chemicals, namely Deethyl-atrazine (DEA), Deisopropyl-atrazine (DIA), Diaminochlorotriazine (DACT) and Hydroxyatrazine were added. Mr. CHAN stated that WSD was making effort to identify and develop suitable testing methods to enable migration to the fourth edition of the WHO Guidelines as early as possible.

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4.6 Dr. CHEUNG Yun Hing, Richard expressed his appreciation for WSD’s prompt response to his request made in the 21st Meeting of the Working Group on Publication of Water Quality Data by arranging a visit to the Radiation Screening Centre at the Sha Tin Water Treatment Works in the morning prior to the meeting.

5 Visit to Guangdong

5.1 The Chairman invited Mr. NG Mang Tung, Bobby to report the progress of the visit to Dongjiang.

5.2 Mr. NG reported that a visit to the Dongjiang would be arranged in November 2011 as in previous years and Members would have to decide on the duration of the visit. He advised Members that if Members decided to visit the three major reservoirs in the upstream of Dongjiang in Heyuan, namely Fengshuba Reservoir (楓樹壩水庫), Xinfengjiang Reservoir (新豐江水庫), and Baipenzhu Reservoir (白盆珠水庫), a 3-day trip would be arranged. If members decided to visit Taiyuan and the dedicated aqueduct only, a 2-day trip would be planned.

5.3 After some discussion, the majority of Members voted for the 2-day visit to Dongjiang. Mr. NG agreed to advise Members on the details of the visit in due course.

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(Post-meeting note: A 2-day visit to Dongjiang on 9 & 10 November 2011)

had been arranged.)

6 Use of Reclaimed Water

6.1 The Chairman invited Mr. NG Mang Tung, Bobby to brief members on the latest progress relating to the use of reclaimed water. Mr. NG reported that:

(a) The Technical Sub-Group (TSG) would continue to co-ordinate WSD inter-departmental efforts in studying the use of reclaimed water.

(b) To cater for the new developments in the north-eastern part of the New Territories, the Civil Engineering and Development Department (CEDD) was planning to upgrade the Shek Wu Hui Sewage Treatment Works. The feasibility of upgrading the sewage treatment works to produce reclaimed water to supply the new developments as well as the Sheung Shui and Fanling areas for toilet flushing and non-potable uses will also be examined in order to reduce fresh water consumption and minimise discharge to Deep Bay.

6.2 Ms. WONG Pik Yan, Nicole asked about the usage of the reclaimed water in this area. Mr. NG stated that the estimated usage would be around 40% of the total sewage treated, which would be sufficient for use of those areas concerned.

6.3 Ms. HO Siu Fong, Betty asked about the area included in the new development areas to be supplied with reclaimed water and in particular, whether WSD had carried out any liaison work with the departments concerned. Mr NG said that CEDD was planning the use of reclaimed water for three new development areas (Kwu Tung North, Fanling North and Ping Che/Ta Kwu Ling New Development Areas) in the north-eastern part of the New Territories adjacent to Sheung Shui and Fanling. Mr NG added that the TSG would continue to co-ordinate inter-departmental efforts (including those from EPD, DSD and WSD) in studying the use of reclaimed water and that an assessment on the financial viability of supplying reclaimed water to those areas concerned was being prepared by the consultant of CEDD.

6.4 Ms. HO Siu Fong, Betty further asked whether the Lok Ma Chau Loop was included in the new development plan. Mr. NG said that there had been no information on the Lok Ma Chau Loop development at the moment, but he agreed to explore the feasibility of using reclaimed water in this area once there was more information about the development. Mr. MA Lee Tak added that WSD could convey ACQWS's comments to CEDD for their consideration. Dr. CHEUNG Yun Hing, Richard asked and Mr. TANG Kin Fai confirmed that the "zero-discharge" policy was being adopted in Deep Bay. Mr. TANG added that the standard of sewage treatment in this area was very stringent and it would be a good opportunity to use reclaimed water.

6.5 The Chairman concluded that the ACQWS supported the direction to explore the use of reclaimed water in new developments and to implement Total Water

Management measures in new developments as far as practicable.

7 Terms of Reference (TOR) of the Committee

- 7.1** The Chairman invited Mr. NG Mang Tung, Bobby to brief the meeting on the latest state of play relating to the proposed revision of the TOR. Mr. NG WSD reported that the following new name and TOR of the Committee had been proposed to the Development Bureau (DEVB) for endorsement.

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. CHAN Pai Ming, Jimmy advised that DEVB welcomed members' suggestion and advice on a wider scope of work relating to water resource and had no objection to the proposed changes in principle.
- 7.3** The Chairman thanked DEVB for its support and noted that subject to the endorsement by the Government, the new name and TOR would be adopted in next term of appointment of the Advisory Committee, i.e. 2012- 2014.

8 Water Conservation Campaign for Primary Schools

- 8.1** The Chairman invited Mr. PANG Kwok Fan to brief the meeting on the progress of the school water conservation campaign. Mr. PANG WSD reported that:
- (a) Schools, which had actively taken part in various water conservation events/activities, were being short-listed for identifying model schools. Based on the frequency and variety of the water conservation events/activities that primary schools had taken part in the previous 3 years, 16 schools were recommended to receive a Commendation for acknowledging their continuous effort in promoting water conservation to their students. Commendation certificates were presented at the 2010/11 Certificate Presentation Ceremony for Water Conservation Ambassadors on 12 July 2011.
 - (b) The "Water Conservation Ambassador Selection Scheme" had become a recurrent programme item. The Scheme for 2010/11 was rolled out in December 2010, with about 3490 students from 49 schools expressing interest in joining. A certificate presentation ceremony was held on 12 July 2011 to award certificates to 576 water conservation ambassadors in recognition of their participation and contribution in the Scheme.

- (c) The last meeting of the Working Group on Public Education was held on 27 September 2010. To prepare for the work in respect of public education, it was suggested to increase the frequency of the Working Group meeting. Mr. PANG would discuss the details with the Chairlady of the Working Group, Ms. WONG Pik Yan, Nicole, in due course.

8.2 Regarding the review of the effectiveness of the scheme on “Water Conservation Starts from Home”, Mr. PANG reported that great support from primary schools was received since the launch of the scheme in 2009. WSD was invited to conduct talks in about 100 schools each year, covering more than 28,700 students in 2010/11. Teachers who invited WSD to conduct talks provided positive feedback and comments on the activities. Most of them believed that our visits had successfully enhanced students’ awareness of the issue of water conservation.

8.3 Mr. PANG stated that considering the fact that secondary school students were very different from primary school students in terms of their interests and expectations, a new initiative on water conservation would need to be developed for those young people. WSD was in the process of preparing a teaching kit for the liberal studies on water supplies entitled: Water: Learn & Conserve (知水、惜水) aiming at providing teachers and students with supplementary reference materials.

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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, Bobby to brief the meeting on the latest progress about the implementation of WELS. Mr. NG reported that:

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- (a) Registration of showers under WELS had commenced in September 2009. Up to end June 2011, about 160 models had been registered.
- (b) Registration of water taps under WELS had commenced in September 2010. Up to end June 2011, about 40 models had been registered.
- (c) Registration of washing machines under WELS had commenced in March 2011. WSD had received about 20 applications for registration. He believed that the number of applications would increase after the expiry of the grace period for registration under the Energy Efficiency Labelling Scheme (EELS) in September 2011.
- (d) Consultation on the draft scheme document for WELS on urinals was in progress.

Any Other Business

10.1 With respect to para 11.2 of minutes of last meeting, WSD was requested to arrange site visits to water mains replacement and rehabilitation works and

leakage detection works. Mr. NG Mang Tung, Bobby reported that most of the works would be carried out at night time after office hours. He would however try to arrange a visit at a convenient hour to Members.

(Post-meeting notes: A visit was arranged to a water mains rehabilitation site - Contract 20/WSD/08 at Chai Wan in the afternoon of 23 August 2011(Tuesday))

- 10.2** Mr. LAM Man Pang attended the meeting on “Water meter management”.
- 10.3** Mr. WONG Siu Wai, Kenny noted that WSD had encountered some difficulties in taking the reading of some water meters, especially in aged buildings and asked whether WSD had the right to relocate the water meters without the consent of the occupants. Mr. MA Lee Tak said that WSD had the right to relocate/replace the meters where justifiable but WSD would inform the occupants in advance. WSD would also request the occupants to prepare and relocate the connection pipes as the section of the pipes between the premises and meters were the property of the occupants.
- 10.4** Mr. LAM Man Pang had shown in the meeting a video “鏗鏘集 - 冷眼” produced by RTHK regarding the daily work of meter readers. Ms. FONG Kwok Shan, Christine suggested WSD to broadcast the video again in order to remind the public of the difficulties it encountered. She stated that China Light & Power Co Ltd (CLP) was using routers to transmit meter readings in some housing estates and wondered if WSD could use the same technique. Mr. LAM Man Pang replied that CLP had launched the pilot scheme to test the use of electronic means to transmit meter reading. He explained that it would pose some difficulties for WSD as the technique of transmitting data from water meters was different from electricity meters. Besides, the cost of using routers for transmitting data was very high and the proposal would entail a high cost. Hence, WSD would have to consider the technical and cost issue in exploring the technique. Nevertheless, he undertook that WSD would keep exploring/identifying the most cost-effective technology to be used.
- 10.5** Ms. LEE Kwun Yee, Kenny invited WSD to join hands with the Wanchai District Council to conduct activities promoting water conservation to the community. She said that the activities could include drama, carnival, concert, etc. and she emphasized that the Wanchai District Council had sufficient funding for organizing/ sponsoring activities. Mr. MA Lee Tak thanked her for the invitation and stated that WSD would consider the proposal.
- 11** There being no further items raised, the Chairman thanked Members for attending the meeting and adjourned the meeting at 4:45 pm.