

Advisory Committee on Water Supplies (2024-2026)
Minutes of Third Meeting

Date: 20 June 2025 (Friday)

Time: 9:30 a.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 CHE Chi Ming	Member
Dr CHENG Kam Wah, Edmond	Member
Mr CHEUNG Hau Wai	Member
Ms CHOW Ka Wing, Rachel	Member
Ms CHUNG Lai Kam, Kathy	Member
Ir HO Wai Ping, Linda	Member
Mr LAM Tsz Kai, Charles	Member
Mr LAM Yat Fung, James	Member
Prof LEUNG Kwok Hi, Michael	Member
Mr LI Kam Wong, Arthur	Member
Prof LOCK Fat Shing, Louis	Member
Dr NG Ying Sim, Angie	Member
Ir TANG Ming Sum, Michelle	Member
Prof TSE Lap Ah, Shelly	Member
Mr YIU Ming, Jeff	Member
Dr YU Yuen Ping, William	Member
Mr WONG Yan Lok, Roger	Member (Water Supplies Department)
Mr WONG Yin Kit, Jerry	Member's Representative (Development Bureau)
Mr FAN Kai Yip, Ivan	Member's Representative (Architectural Services Department)
Mr LAU Shing Cheong, Edwin	Member (Drainage Services Department)
Dr YU Wing Man, Joan	Member (Department of Health)
Ms WONG Kam Wah	Member (Housing Department)
Ms WONG Hau Yi, Yvonne	Member's Representative (Housing Department)
Mr LAM Chun Ngai, Avery	Secretary (Water Supplies Department)

Water Supplies Department Representatives in Attendance

Mr YIP Ka Chun, Gary	Assistant Director
Mr LOK Chi Chung, Andy	Assistant Director
Mr CHOY Tak Yip	Chief Chemist
Ms WONG Nam Ping, Melody	Chief Engineer

Mr CHOW Kai Hang, Daniel	Senior Engineer
Mr FUNG Siu Cheuk, Peter	Senior Engineer
Mr LAW Wai Ho, Milton	Senior Engineer
Ms LEUNG Ming Yi	Chemist
Ms WONG Ansie Hong Synn	Engineer
Ms SIN Pui Yee, Grace	Engineer (Note-Taker)

Absent with Apologies

Dr DUAN Huan Feng	Member
Prof SHANG Chii	Member
Prof Kaimin SHIH	Member
Mr YAU Kam Wing, Kelvin	Member
Sr WONG Kwok Leung, Paul	Member
Mr LUI Hok Leung, Michael	Member (Environmental Protection Department)

Item

1. Opening Remarks

- 1.1 The Chairman welcomed all Members and representatives of Water Supplies Department (WSD) to the third meeting of Advisory Committee on Water Supplies (ACWS) for the term of 2024 - 2026.
- 1.2 The Chairman informed that Prof CHE Chi Ming and Mr LAM Tsz Kai, Charles would attend this meeting online, while Mr DUAN Huan Feng, Prof SHANG Chii, Prof Kaimin SHIH, Sr WONG Kwok Leung, Paul, Mr YAU Kam Wing, Kelvin and Mr LUI Hok Leung, Michael were unable to attend the meeting and had sent in apologies.
- 1.3 The Chairman informed that Dr YU Wing Man, Joan had replaced Dr AU Wing Yee, Winnie as the representative of Department of Health. The Chairman welcomed Dr YU Wing Man, Joan to join ACWS.

Agenda Items

2. Confirmation of Minutes of Last Meeting

- 2.1 The Chairman advised that the draft minutes for last meeting had been circulated to Members on 10 June 2025 with no comments received. As no

further amendments were proposed at the meeting, the draft minutes were confirmed.

3. Matter Arising from Last Meeting

3.1 Referring to item 4.3 of the minutes of the last meeting, Prof CHE Chi Ming had raised a question on assessing PFAS contamination from source to consumers' taps including the internal plumbing systems of aged buildings. Mr CHOY Tak Yip of WSD reported that a PFAS survey was conducted from source to customers' end taps in May 2025. The raw water samples collected from various locations including Muk Mu Raw Water Pumping Station, reservoirs and intakes of water treatment plants were found to have PFAS levels significantly below both the National Standard and European Standards (EN). Samples were also taken from taps of buildings including the Cross Harbour main, the old Main Building of the University of Hong Kong, an old Clinic in Sai Kung, an old building in Shek Kip Mei as well as the farthest point of supply zone located at Chung Hom Kok Fire Station and South Horizons respectively. All of these samples were also found to have PFAS levels significantly below the Standards. It was concluded that the health risk of exposure to PFAS from drinking water was very low.

3.2 The Chairman and Prof CHE Chi Ming appreciated WSD's effort in conducting the PFAS survey to reassure low risk of PFAS in customers' taps. Prof CHE Chi Ming highlighted the role of property management agents in maintaining drinking water quality in their buildings referencing to the WSD's launched "Quality Water Supply Scheme for Buildings – Fresh Water (Management System)" which has promoted and assisted property management agents to develop and implement water safety plan. Prof CHE Chi Ming remarked that proper maintenance of the internal plumbing systems, particularly at hospitals, hotels and old buildings, should be maintained to safeguard drinking water quality. Mr WONG Yan Lok, Roger of WSD shared Prof CHE Chi Ming's view and supplemented that WSD would also further put forward measures to ensure aesthetic quality of drinking water to ease public's concern over the aesthetic aspect. Mr CHOY Tak Yip of WSD added that WSD has established a Water Quality Monitoring Programme with the aim of routinely monitoring water quality, including aesthetic quality, at the taps of all residential and non-residential customers.

4. Emergency Management of Water Supply Incidents

- 4.1 The Chairman invited Ms WONG Ansie Hong Synn of WSD to brief Members on “Emergency Management of Water Supply Incidents”.
- 4.2 In response to Prof LEUNG Kwok Hi, Michael’s enquiry on whether WSD has assessed how much carbon emissions were reduced due to the implementation of the energy saving initiatives, Mr WONG Yan Lok, Roger of WSD advised that carbon audits were carried out for WSD’s office buildings and various energy saving measures had been implemented to reduce carbon emission. The relevant information was available in the WSD’s annual report. Mr WONG Yan Lok, Roger of WSD further supplemented that WSD was also committed to reducing pumping energy consumption in the water supply networks by modulating water pressure heads to suitable levels. Since reducing water consumption could contribute to lowering carbon emissions, WSD has been collaborating with the University of Hong Kong to develop a water literacy programme which aimed to reduce water consumption by equipping public with knowledge on the value of water and the need to save water as individuals and communities.
- 4.3 Ir TANG Ming Sum, Michelle enquired about the replacement programme for the aged water mains in Kowloon Region such as Kings Park and where pipe bursts had occurred. Mr WONG Yan Lok, Roger of WSD replied that following the replacement of about 3 000 km of aged water mains in the 2000s and the subsequent establishment of Water Intelligent Network (WIN) to tackle water leaks, WSD has been looking into conducting a holistic reduction of supply pressure in water networks in order to minimize risk and consequence of pipe bursts and reduce amount of water loss. Water supply pressure in Hong Kong is generally double of that in Singapore due to the hilly terrain of our city. To facilitate effective pressure management in the water distribution networks, this relied on analysis of the data collected from the sensing equipment installed under the WIN project and those installed / to be installed at the smart water meters. Mr WONG Yan Lok, Roger of WSD supplemented that WSD has been refining the hydraulic model of the water supply networks in order to optimize supply pressure and has also been replacing the aged mains accord priorities to those with high social impacts (e.g. traffic interruption and fresh water mains with severity of internal lining detachment).

- 4.4 The Chairman appreciated WSD's efforts in continuous update on the improvement programme of the water networks with a view to tackling new challenges and applying new technologies whenever possible. In response to Dr YU Yuen Ping, William's enquiry, Mr WONG Yan Lok, Roger of WSD advised that utilities companies were coordinated before construction and they might carry out works at the same trenches subject to feasibility and constructability.
- 4.5 Mr YIU Ming, Jeff thanked WSD's prompt response to a recent water incident at Queen's Hill Estate including the swift provision of water tanks and flushing of water meters. Mr YIU Ming, Jeff enquired about management of water incidents at congested roads such as Tuen Mun Road. Mr WONG Yan Lok, Roger of WSD explained that trunk water mains were often laid outside of trunk roads as far as practicable, which was also the case at Tuen Mun Road initially. However, due to the widening of Tuen Mun Road, some sections of the trunk mains along Tuen Mun Road became located within the widened road. WSD would explore measures, including relocating the concerned water mains out of the trunk road as far as practicable, to facilitate future maintenance.

5. Digitalisation of Water Supply Services

- 5.1 The Chairman invited Mr CHOW Kai Hang, Daniel of WSD to brief Members on "Digitalisation of Water Supply Services".
- 5.2 Prof LOCK Fat Shing, Louis appreciated WSD providing comprehensive insights into a series of initiatives and frameworks WSD has established to drive the digitalisation of water supply services.
- 5.3 Prof LEUNG Kwok Hi, Michael's enquired if variable speed pumps (VSPs) were widely used in water supply networks for improving efficiency and control of the water supply. Mr CHOW Kai Hang, Daniel replied that most of the pumps used in the water supply networks were still fixed speed pumps as VSPs have higher capital costs and higher level of complexity in terms of operation and maintenance.
- 5.4 Prof TSE Lap Ah, Shelly enquired on the use of the smart water data to identify potential changes in the health of elderlies and patients living alone. Elderlies' deviation from their normal water consumption habits such as significant reduction in water consumption might indicate deterioration of mobility and sickness. Mr WONG Yan Lok, Roger of WSD advised that WSD has been

collaborating with other government departments in exploring the use of data collected from smart meters in health and care monitoring systems.

5.5 Mr LI Kam Wong, Arthur concerned that high water pressure often occurred at night resulting in damage to plumbing fixtures of buildings. He suggested studying the possibility of dividing water distribution networks into smaller zonal areas by deploying smaller size service reservoirs so as to reduce excessive pressure in the water supply networks and eventually prevent damage to the water mains. Mr WONG Yan Lok, Roger of WSD addressed that hydraulic modelling and the information systems would enable better understanding of water supply pressure in the distribution networks spatially and temporal and hence would provide more detailed information for formulation of pressure reduction strategies.

5.6 Dr YU Yuen Ping, William enquired whether there was coordination with relevant government departments in connection with the planning of water supply infrastructures for the water cooling system at the proposed supercomputing centres and data centres in the Northern Metropolis. Mr YIP Ka Chun, Gary of WSD advised that these centres consumed large amount of water for cooling but the quality of water required for cooling could be less stringent than that for potable use. Therefore, these centres might use recycled water for cooling and coordination with relevant government departments were in progress. Mr WONG Yan Lok, Roger of WSD supplemented that development of these centres would unavoidably increase water consumption. It was important to conserve water as much as possible by containing fresh water demand, minimizing water loss and expanding use of recycled water for non-potable purposes whilst an increase in importation of Dongjiang water would be considered as the last resort.

6. **Use of Corrosion Inhibitors in Salt Water Supply System**

6.1 The Chairman invited Ms LEUNG Ming Yi of WSD to brief Members on “Use of Corrosion Inhibitors in Salt Water Supply System”.

6.2 The Chairman enquired whether wastewater treatment would be affected by the hydrated lime (calcium hydroxide) added in the flushing water. Mr CHOY Tak Yip of WSD reported that hydrated lime was commonly used in both water and wastewater treatment processes and would have very low environmental impact when responsibly used.

6.3 In response to Prof LOCK Fat Shing, Louis's concern about blockages in water mains by accumulation of lime byproducts, Mr CHOY Tak Yip of WSD reported that the pilot scale study at Ap Lei Chau Salt Water Pumping Station would determine the optimal level of lime, including minimising scale formation for the salt water networks.

7. Any Other Business

7.1 Due to time constraint, The Chairman suggested to postpone the presentation on “Water-Smart Taskforce Programme” to the next ACWS meeting. Members had no objection to this arrangement.

7.2 The Chairman welcomed Members to suggest topic(s) related to water supplies for discussion in the coming ACWS meetings. Members noted and was advised to provide topic(s) if any after the meeting.

7.3 Dr YU Yuen Ping, William suggested that WSD could explore ways to build better communication with public and in long-term enhance transparency in decision-making in order to enhance public engagement and to build public trust in WSD.

7.4 The Secretary reported that the group photo of ACWS would be provided with a photo frame and an invitation email would be sent out to the Chairman and Members asking for expression of interest after the meeting.

7.5 There being no further items raised, the Chairman adjourned the meeting at 11:30 a.m.