

SPORTS COMMISSION
Notes of Meeting held on 20 June 2011

Present:

Mr TSANG Tak-sing	Secretary for Home Affairs (Chairman)
The Hon Timothy FOK	Vice-Chairman
Mr TONG Wai-lun	Chairman, Community Sports Committee
Professor Frank FU	Chairman, Elite Sports Committee
Mr William KO	Chairman, Major Sports Events Committee
Mr David YIP	Vice-Chairman, Community Sports Committee
Mrs Betty FUNG	Director of Leisure and Cultural Services
Mr CHAU How-chen	
Dr Ann CHIANG	
Mr Herman HU	
Mr Victor HUI	
Miss Leonie KI	
Mr Tony YUE	
Miss Amy CHAN	
Mr Wilfred NG	
Mr Benjamin MOK	Principal Assistant Secretary for Home Affairs (Recreation and Sport) (Secretary)

Absent with Apology:

Mr HUNG Chung-yam	Vice-Chairman, Elite Sports Committee
Mr Terry SMITH	Vice-Chairman, Major Sports Events Committee
Dr Eric LI	Chairman, Hong Kong Sports Institute Ltd.
Dr Roy CHUNG	
Mrs Jenny FUNG	

In Attendance:

Mr Raymond YOUNG	Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs
Mr Jonathan MCKINLEY	Deputy Secretary for Home Affairs (2)
Mr Kesson LEE	Administrative Assistant to Secretary for Home Affairs
Ms Annie KONG	Assistant Secretary for Home Affairs (Recreation and Sport)1

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

The Chairman welcomed Members to the second Sports Commission (SC) meeting of the 2011-2012 term. The theme of the meeting was the provision of sports facilities.

ITEM 1: MATTERS ARISING

1.1 The notes of the last meeting were issued in May 2011 and were confirmed. Members noted the progress of matters arising from the 14th meeting as summarised in the note tabled.

ITEM 2: PROVISION OF PUBLIC SPORTS FACILITIES TO PROMOTE SPORT IN THE COMMUNITY (Paper No. SC 10/2011)

2.1 **The Chairman** said that since 2005 the Government had completed new sports facilities and upgraded existing facilities at a cost of more than \$4.5 billion, and 15 sports facilities valued at over \$9.2 billion were under construction.

2.2 **The Secretary** presented the paper, drawing Members' attention to the Government's considerations when planning new facilities and its strategic approach to developing public sports facilities. He said that the Government would focus on providing more new indoor sports centres in districts that had a clear shortfall, develop more third generation (3G) artificial turf football pitches, provide more jogging tracks and tai-chi areas, and take into account other priorities before taking forward further swimming pool projects.

2.3 A Member said that the competition to use table-tennis facilities at Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) venues remained keen during peak hours.

2.4 A Member noted that LCSD would promote the use of sports facilities during non-peak hours among different users, such as the elderly.

2.5 A Member suggested that a distinction be made between the planning and use of indoor and outdoor sports facilities, taking into account the effects of weather and air quality on users. To encourage walking as a means of exercise, he proposed including indoor walking or running tracks in new sports venues.

2.6 **Mrs Betty Fung** said that the direction for developing new sports facilities was in line with a Member's suggestion. For instance, the Tseung Kwan O Complex in Area 44 would be the first LCSD venue equipped with an indoor jogging track immediately above the games arena. Similar indoor jogging tracks would be

provided in other new indoor sports centres where appropriate.

2.7 A Member said that despite the surplus provision of swimming pools, the Government should consider providing more indoor pools, especially in areas with no beaches, like the New Territories West. Swimmers may still use these facilities in winter or during inclement weather.

2.8 In response to the enquiry by a Member on the decreasing attendance figures at public swimming pools over the period from 2008 to 2011, **Mrs Fung** explained that the fluctuations could be explained by the longer period of the LCSD Leisure Facilities Free Use Scheme implemented in the earlier years.

2.9 A Member stressed the importance of nurturing spectators with a view to increasing public participation in sport. He suggested that new public sports facilities be designed with the element of spectator participation in mind. Another Member shared his views. She added that the design of new public sports facilities should help foster a positive image for sport.

2.10 A Member said that there were many examples overseas of sports facilities that were built on the harbour-front to facilitate public use, and this could help make such facilities more accessible to the public. In response to **the Chairman's** enquiry on the provision of sports facilities at the harbour-front, **Mr Raymond Young** said that the West Kowloon Waterfront Promenade had a 1,500-metre cycling track and a 700-metre jogging track for public use. The new Central Waterfront would have similar facilities.

2.11 A Member said that the sports facilities provided by the Hong Kong Housing Society and the Housing Department should not be considered as equivalent to the facilities provided by LCSD as the former were not always available to the general public, sports coaches and "national sports associations" (NSAs). Another Member echoed his observation. He added that NSAs and non-residents of the housing estates of the Hong Kong Housing Society and the Housing Department may have difficulties booking these facilities.

2.12 In response to **the Chairman**, **the Secretary** reported that six indoor sports centres were under construction and five were under planning, mainly in districts which had a shortage of such facilities.

2.13 **The Chairman** said that the Government would continue to consult District Councils on the provision of sports facilities within their constituencies.

ITEM 3: THE PROPOSED MULTI-PURPOSE STADIUM COMPLEX (MPSC) AT KAI TAK (Paper No. SC 11/2011)

3.1 **The Secretary** presented the paper, which reported the latest developments regarding the MPSC project and other projects at the Kai Tak

Development. He said that the Home Affairs Bureau (HAB) had invited potential consultant firms to conduct a study to advise on the project procurement and financing options for the MPSC, and to recommend preferred options for taking forward the project. The consultancy study would be completed by the end of 2011.

3.2 A Member said that the sports sector was looking forward to the early implementation of the MPSC, especially in face of the increasing regional competition for hosting large-scale sports events.

3.3 A Member asked whether the Government would bear the cost of the MPSC project if no private sector firm was interested in investing in the project.

3.4 **Mr Young** said that the MPSC was due for completion by 2019. As this would be a large-scale investment, the Government would consider all feasible options for the development of the MPSC. Subject to the findings of the consultancy study, HAB would recommend that the Government fund the cost of the MPSC project if no other option was considered viable.

3.5 A Member suggested that the Government consider involving private property developers in the project to help share the financial commitment. One Member said that it was a common practice on the Mainland to contract out public projects to private developers. Another Member echoed that Singapore was also building its new stadium through public-private partnership.

3.6 **Mr Young** said that the consultant would advise on all the feasible financing options and evaluate the business case, taking into account the construction and operating costs involved, as well as the impact on similar venues in nearby areas.

3.7 In response to a Member's query, **Mr Raymond Young** said that there was as yet no financial commitment to the project because we had not yet sought funding from the Legislative Council's Finance Committee. The completion of the Technical Feasibility Statement for the MPSC was part of the funding approval process, but did not represent a guarantee of government funding for the project.

ITEM 4: OVERVIEW OF MAJOR SPORTS FACILITIES UNDER CONSIDERATION (Paper No. SC 12/2011)

[Confidential Item]

ITEM 5: ARTS AND SPORT DEVELOPMENT FUND – FUNDING PROJECTION FOR 2011-2012 SPORTS PROJECTS (Paper No. SC 13/2011)

5.1 **The Secretary** presented the paper, which sought Members' views on the broad areas to be supported by grants from the Arts and Sport Development Fund

(ASDF). He said that the investment return on the seed fund since its injection in July 2010 was about 6%, which translated to about \$94.5 million in income for the sports portion of the ASDF. This rate of return was slightly higher than the projected long-term average of about 4-5% per annum.

5.2 A Member welcomed the proposed initiatives. He added that the Major Sports Events Committee had already begun identifying NSAs that could host additional major sports events in the coming year. He noted that the World Tenpin Bowling Championships for Women would be staged in Hong Kong in September 2011, and he expected that more world class competitions would follow.

5.3 A Member supported the proposed allocation of funds. He suggested extending funding support to district sports associations (DSAs), which mainly relied on the donations or sponsorship to promote sports development at the district level.

5.4 A Member said that his DSA received limited funding from the Home Affairs Department, and that its funding came mainly from donations and sponsorship. He supported the idea of providing more funding support to DSAs.

5.5 A Member said that team sports such as volleyball, basketball and handball were not classified as elite sports therefore subventions from LCSD could only cover the administrative expenses of the relevant NSAs. He proposed that funding be allocated to team sports' NSAs to allow them to employ high quality coaches. Another Member agreed that extensive training support and the employment of high quality coaches were as important as the construction of high standard sports facilities.

5.6 **Mr Jonathan McKinley** said that the employment of high quality coaches for team sports for a defined period (say two years) was in line with the principles of the ASDF. NSAs could submit suitable proposals for funding support.

5.7 A Member said that more long-term support was required for training coaches, umpires, organisers and other sports personnel. He proposed that funding support also be extended to the organisation of sports conferences.

5.8 **The Chairman** noted the differences in the resources and manpower of DSAs in different districts.

5.9 In response to a Member's query, **the Secretary** explained that the Government intended to carry out a pilot scheme to engage retired athletes to coach school students. The Government would continue to promote school sports through existing LCSD programmes. **Mr McKinley** added that the theme for the next SC meeting would be "Education and Sport". Representatives from the Education Bureau would be invited to attend the meeting.

5.10 A Member said that the development of young athletes was particularly critical at the secondary school stage. She welcomed the Government's measures to help promote sport among young people.

ITEM 6: REPORTS BY THE COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

- (a) **Progress Report of the Community Sports Committee (CSC)
(Paper No. SC 14/2011)**
- (b) **Progress Report of the Elite Sports Committee (ESC)
(Paper No. SC 15/2011)**
- (c) **Progress Report of the Major Sports Events Committee (MSEC)
(Paper No. SC 16/2011)**

6.1 Members noted the progress of the committees as set out in the papers.

ITEM 7: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Universiade 2011, Shenzhen

7.1 A Member said that the Universiade 2011 would commence on 12 August. He invited Members to attend. **The Chairman** said that representatives from the Education Bureau and the Home Affairs Bureau would attend the opening ceremony.

7.2 **Mrs Fung** informed Members that LCSD had provided funding to support Hong Kong athletes' preparation for and participation in the Universiade.

Date of Next Meeting

7.3 The next Commission meeting would be held in September or October 2011.

7.4 There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

**Sports Commission Secretariat
July 2011**