Community Involvement Committee on Greening Notes of the 16th Meeting

Date and Time: 3 October 2024 (Thursday) at 3 pm **Venue:** Conference Room 1, G/F., Central Government Offices, Tamar

Present	
Chairperson	
Mr LAU Chun-kit, Ricky, JP	

Posts

Permanent Secretary for Development (Works), Development Bureau ("DEVB")

Non-official Members

Dr Johnnie CHAN Chi-kau, SBS, JP Ms CHAN Man-kuen, MH Mr CHENG Ka-ho, MH, JP Mr CHEUNG Yung-pong, MH Miss Linda CHOY Siu-min Dr Jeffrey HUNG Oi-shing Dr Tony IP Chung-man, MH Miss Trazy KONG Lok-yi Ms Una LAU Yuk-min Dr Angie NG Ying-sim Miss POON Wing-yi Ms Idy WONG Lai-yin Ms Florence TSUI Ho-fun

Official Members

Miss LAM Nga Man, Pamela, JP	Deputy Secretary (Works) 1, DEVB
Dr Jackie YIP	Assistant Director (Country Parks), as
	representative of Agriculture, Fisheries and
	Conservation Department ("AFCD")
Ms Louisa NGAI	Chief Landscape Architect/Headquarters, as
	representative of Civil Engineering and
	Development Department ("CEDD")
Ms Mandy LEUNG	Senior Curriculum Development Officer
	(Moral, Civic and National Education) 1, as
	representative of Education Bureau ("EDB")

Mr Terence TSOI	Senior Development Officer (Corporate Affairs), representative of Environmental Protection Department ("EPD")
Mr Michael WONG	Chief Executive Officer (Administration) 3, representative of Home Affairs Department ("HAD")
Ms Christine AU	Senior Landscape Architect/Tree Management and Horticulture, representative of Housing Department ("HD")
Ms Tina TAI	Chief Leisure Manager (Green Campaign), representative of Leisure and Cultural Services Department ("LCSD")
Secretary	
Miss Kathy NG	Head of Greening, Landscape and Tree Management Section, DEVB

Absent with Apologies

Dr Caroline LAW Man-yee Mr WONG Chung-leung

In Attendance

<u>DEVB</u> Mr Jason WONG

Miss Angie AU YEUNG Mr David YUEN

<u>EPD</u>

Mr TANG Kin-fai Mr Johnson LUK Head of Greening and Landscape Office (Atg.) (*Note-Taker*) Head of Tree Management Office Assistant Secretary (Greening and Landscape) 2

Organic Waste Facilities Development Manager (1) Project Manager (Horticulture)

Action

Opening Remarks

1. <u>The Chairperson</u> welcomed <u>Members</u> to the 16th meeting of the Community Involvement Committee on Greening ("CICG").

Item 1 : Confirmation of the Minutes of the Last Meeting

2. The draft minutes of the 15th meeting, which was held on 6 July 2023, were confirmed without amendments.

Item 2 : Matters Arising from the Last Meeting

- 3. <u>H/GLO</u> briefed <u>Members</u> on the matters arising from the last meeting:
 - Regarding comments on the "Hong Kong 2024 International Urban Forestry Conference" and "Your Story in Our Urban Forest Photography Contest", H/GLO would report in Paper No. 2/2024.
 - Regarding comments on wider use of social media platforms, AS(GL)2 would report in Paper No. 3/2024.

Item 3 : Public Education and Community Involvement Activities organized by the Government in 2023 (CICG Paper No. 1/2024)

- 4. <u>H/GLO</u> reported that the Government organized around 3,900 activities related to greening, landscape, and tree management, attracting over 1.5 million participants in 2023.
- 5. <u>The Chairperson</u> thanked departments for their concerted efforts in organizing community involvement activities, and was pleased to note the very good results. He encouraged departments to keep up the momentum.
- 6. <u>A Member</u> expressed appreciation for the departments' efforts, particularly highlighting CEDD's community planting event for enhancing the sense of belonging among local residents.

Item 4: "Hong Kong 2024 International Urban Forestry Conference" and "Your Story in Our Urban Forest - Photography Contest" (CICG Paper No. 2/2024)

- (i) Hong Kong 2024 International Urban Forestry Conference
- 7. <u>H/GLO</u> briefed Members on the completion of the Hong Kong 2024 International Urban Forestry Conference ("IUFC") and related promotion work.
- 8. <u>A Member</u> commended the IUFC for the renowned speakers who successfully facilitated knowledge exchange among the Mainland, Hong Kong, and overseas participants.
- 9. <u>A Member</u> suggested broader use of hashtags on social media to enhance event exposure and recommended that the GLTMS further promote the insights gained from the IUFC to the community.
- 10. <u>The Chairperson</u> thanked Members for their comments and reckoned that promoting the IUFC in Hong Kong, the Mainland, and overseas would effectively showcase Hong Kong's greening efforts to a wider audience.
- (ii) Your Story in Our Urban Forest Photography Contest
- 11. <u>H/GLO</u> briefed Members on the completion of the Your Story in Our Urban Forest Photography Contest ("Contest").
- 12. Several Members provided suggestions:
 - <u>A Member</u> recommended uploading more photo entries on Instagram apart from the winning photos and adding more categories in future campaign. <u>Another Member</u> supported and suggested selecting photos highlighting urban forestry's intangible benefits for public education.
 - <u>A Member</u> proposed strengthening the promotion of local characteristics to connect our community with urban forests. <u>Another Member</u> emphasised the importance of effective storytelling in communicating the Government's greening policies to the community, particularly in demonstrating how holistic landscape planning and strategic planting design have overcome site constraints to enhance park users' experience.

- 13. <u>The Chairperson</u> thanked Members for their advice and participation as judges.
- (iii) <u>Members' suggestions on enhancement of collaboration</u>
- 14. Members provided several suggestions:

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- A Member commended the Contest for strengthening social cohesion. noting that several departments were implementing similar initiatives, such as the Housing Department's well-being design projects. He highlighted the private sector's enthusiasm in organizing Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) activities. He suggested that government departments could further engage with the private sector and property management companies in promoting ESG initiatives. Another Member also supported fostering partnerships with the private sector in ESG activities. Another Member proposed collaborating with EDB to arrange educational webinars on greening for students.
- <u>A Member</u> suggested integration of local cultural elements in guided tree tours to make urban forestry more interesting to the general public.
- <u>A Member</u> shared his experience regarding a completed greening project with the Conservancy Association in Nam Cheong, suggesting that the project's impact could have been enhanced through better integration with the nearby LCSD's Nam Cheong Park.
- <u>A Member</u> noted that the Contest's "Parent and Child Category" had effectively encouraged families to appreciate urban forestry. He suggested departments organize more family-oriented activities in future.
- 15. Departmental representatives responded as follows:
 - HD's <u>Senior Landscape Architect/Tree Management and</u> <u>Horticulture</u> acknowledged the positive community reception of HD's well-being design projects.
 - LCSD's <u>Chief Leisure Manager (Green Campaign)</u> welcomed collaboration with government departments and the private sector to create synergy between their projects and nearby LCSD parks, where appropriate.

- <u>Senior Curriculum Development Officer (Moral, Civic and National Education) 1</u> of EDB introduced two student competitions organised by EDB in the 2024/25 school year with submission deadline on 30 April 2025. The activities, namely "People, Trees, Amity Trees and Our Stories Photography-cum-Writing Competition" and "In Harmony with Nature Drawing Competition" aimed to raise students' awareness of environmental conservation, enabling them to appreciate, respect and love the nature, and be willing to undertake the responsibility for protecting the environment and promoting sustainable development.
- 16. <u>The Chairperson</u> suggested more collaborations among departments and with private sector in promoting urban forestry to the youth and the community as a whole.
- (iv) <u>Members' suggestions on usage of social media</u>
- 17. Members offered some recommendations:
 - <u>A Member</u> suggested strengthening the promotion work in the Mainland, for example, through utilizing platforms such as WeChat Official Accounts (微信公眾號) and Red Note (小紅書).
 - <u>A Member</u> proposed posting attractive urban forestry topics e.g. autumn leaves in channels such as Instagram, Red Note, and YouTube.
 - <u>Another Member</u> suggested making use of IG reels in promoting Hong Kong's urban forests to tourists.
- 18. <u>The Chairperson</u> thanked Members and agreed that suggestions GLTMS would be taken into account in developing future public engagement plans.

Item 5: Update of 「人樹共融」Promotion Campaign (CICG Paper No. 3/2024)

19. <u>AS(GL)2</u> briefed Members on the completed and upcoming events of the「人樹共融」promotion campaign.

Item 6: Community Involvement on Greening by Environmental Protection Department (CICG Paper No. 4/2024)

- 20. <u>EPD</u> presented their recent community involvement activities and promoted their eco-products and biochar.
- 21. Members provided the following feedback:
 - <u>A Member</u> expressed interests in EPD's eco-products. <u>Another Member</u> suggested providing free eco-products to primary and secondary schools' horticultural interest groups.
 - <u>A Member</u> recommended EPD to organize demonstrations to showcase the benefits of biochar and eco-products to raise public awareness and attract media attention. Also, EPD could consider collaborating with wood artists.
- 22. <u>EPD</u> responded that collaboration with wood artists on sculptures had been on-going and plan for biochar demonstration sessions was in progress.
- 23 In response to the Chairperson's inquiry about biochar supply and demand, <u>EPD</u> explained that the department would consider expanding raw material sources for biochar production (including branches, leaves, bamboo, and construction materials) if market demand increased, while ensuring product safety.
- 24. <u>The Chairperson</u> requested GLTMS to share EPD's contact information with Members for future collaboration.

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[Post-meeting note: GLTMS provided EPD's contact information to Members via email on 7 October 2024.]

Item 7: Updates on Manpower Development of the Urban Forestry Industry (CICG Paper No. 5/2024)

25. <u>H/TMO</u> briefed Members on urban forestry industry manpower development. <u>The Chairperson</u> emphasized the importance of manpower training and appreciated GLTMS's efforts in establishing career paths for new comers in view of the increasing demand for industry service. EPD

Any Other Business

26. With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 5:20 pm.

Greening, Landscape and Tree Management Section Development Bureau June 2025