Community Involvement Committee on Greening (Notes of the 12th Meeting)

Date and Time: 30 June 2021 (Wednesday) at 2:00 pm

Venue: Conference Room 8, G/F., Central Government Offices, Tamar

Present

Ir LAM Sai-hung, JP Chairperson (Permanent Secretary for

Development (Works), Development Bureau)

Non-official Members

Dr. Johnnie CHAN Chi-kau, BBS, JP

Ms. CHAN Man-kuen, MH

Ms. Amy CHAN May-ho

Mr. CHEUNG Yung-pong, MH

Miss Linda CHOY Siu-min

Dr. Jeffrey HUNG Oi-shing

Ms. Una LAU Yuk-min

Dr. Caroline LAW Man-yee

Mr. Christopher LAW Kin-chung, JP

Mr. LO Cheuk-man

Dr. Angie NG Ying-sim

Miss POON Wing-yi

Ms. Idy WONG Lai-yin

Official Members Posts

Ms. Angela LEE, JP Deputy Secretary (Works) 1, Development

Bureau

Dr. Jackie YIP Assistant Director (Country & Marine Parks)

(Ag.), as representative of Agriculture, Fisheries

and Conservation Department

Dr. Julian KWAN Assistant Director (Technical), as representative

of Civil Engineering and Development

Department

Ms. Rachel LAM Senior Curriculum Development Officer

(Moral, Civic and National Education) 1, as

representative of Education Bureau

Ms. Catherine HO Senior Executive Officer (Community

Relations) 1, as representative of Environmental

Protection Department

Mr. Benedict WONG Chief Executive Officer (Admin) 3, as

representative of Home Affairs Department

Miss LEE Sin-man Chief Manager/Management (Hong Kong

Island and Islands), as representative of Housing

Department

Miss June LO Staff Officer / Horticulture, Housing

Department

Ms. Tina TAI Chief Leisure Manager (Green Campaign)

(Designated), as representative of Leisure and

Cultural Services Department

Mr. Robin LEE Secretary (Head of Greening, Landscape and

Tree Management Section, Development

Bureau)

Absent with Apologies

Mr. CHENG Ka-ho, MH, JP

Dr. Samuel CHENG Kin-tak

Hon. CHEUNG Kwok-kwan, JP

Mr. Matthew SIN Kar-wah

In Attendance

Development Bureau

Ms. Vina WONG Head of Greening and Landscape Office

Mr. Ryan LIN Head of Tree Management Office

Ms. Patty LAU Assistant Secretary (Greening and Landscape) 2

(for Paper No. 5/2021)

Mr. Jason WONG Assistant Secretary (Greening and Landscape) 3

(Note-Taker) (for Papers No. 5/2021 & 6/2021)

<u>Drainage Services Department</u> (Paper No. 7/2021)

Mr. Chris CHUI Senior Landscape Architect / Headquarters

Mr. Jason WONG Senior Engineer / Project Management 1

Ms. Gloria CHAN Engineer / Project Management 5

Ms. Josephine CHENG Forestry Officer / Headquarters

Opening remarks

1. <u>The Chairperson</u> welcomed Members to the 12th meeting of the Community Involvement Committee on Greening (CICG), including Miss Linda CHOY Siu-min, Dr. Caroline LAW Man-yee and Ms. Idy WONG Lai-yin, who joined the meeting for the first time as the non-official members.

Item 1: Confirmation of the minutes of the last meeting

2. The draft minutes of the 11th meeting held on 20 January 2021 were confirmed without amendment.

Item 2: Matters arising from the last meeting

- 3. Members were briefed with the aid of PowerPoint on the arrangements of the Hong Kong Flower Show (HKFS) 2021 held in March and April 2021.
- 4. The Chairperson reckoned the efforts of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) in organising the HKFS 2021 amid the outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic and enquired about the arrangements of HKFS in 2022. Chief Leisure Manager (Green Campaign) (Designated) responded that with the expectation that the COVID-19 pandemic would be eased in 2022, it was hoped that HKFS would resume to the traditional mode and be held in the Victoria Park. Moreover, LCSD planned to produce the online flower show for the public to browse after the show.
- 5. The Chairperson further asked about the page view and the number of visitors for the HKFS 2021. Chief Leisure Manager (Green Campaign) (Designated) responded that the online Flower Show recorded over 240 000 page view. Around 60 000 people visited the Theme Flower Display between 2 March 2021 and 19 April 2021 and over 40 000 people visited the Tulip Display between 16 and 31 March 2021.

Item 3: Update of 「人樹共融」Promotion Campaign (CICG Paper No. 5/2021)

6. Members were briefed with the aid of PowerPoint on the latest

development of three initiatives under the「人樹共融」 Promotion Campaign:

- (a) Urban Forestry Publications The "Pamphlet on Urban Forestry" (the Pamphlet) was released in late April 2021 in both online and hardcopy versions. Complementary promotion activities were launched to publicise the Pamphlet since mid-May 2021, including bus rear and seat back advertisements and advertorials on HK01 website, mobile app and Facebook page. Besides, the bilingual "Little Professor Tree Activity Sheets" (the Activity Sheets) were published and disseminated to over 500 primary schools via the Education Bureau. The Activity Sheets consisting of games and interactive parent-child activities could be downloaded from the Greening Website as well.
- (b) Urban Forestry Roving Exhibition The exhibition would be held in three shopping centres between July and September 2021. To let the public, particularly the target audience (children of age 4 to 10), learn more about the trees around us, the exhibits would include interactive games, with attractive graphics and six funny characters which were modelled on common tree species Souvenir would also be offered to attendants during the exhibition.
- (c) New Landscape Corner in the Greening Website In response to Members' suggestion to promote urban parks in Hong Kong, a new Landscape Corner was targeted to launch on the Greening Website in Q1 of 2022, so as to raise the public appreciation of landscape and greening design in selected local urban parks and green spaces in the territory. Professional photographer had been engaged to take photos for the selected landscape features and greenery with informative captions provided. Efforts would be made to publicise the Landscape Corner via advertorials, magazine cover stories and/or social media platform.
- 7. Regarding the Urban Forestry Roving Exhibitions, a Member suggested extending the exhibition to theme parks by displaying the panels. Another Member suggested displaying the exhibits in kindergarten and primary schools. A Member enquired whether the selected shopping centres were popular among families with young children so that the target audience could be reached effectively. Assistant Secretary (Greening

and Landscape) 2 (AS(GL)2) advised that the three venues, viz. MOS Town, Kai Tin Shopping Centre and Yoho Mall had been selected for conducting the exhibitions with due considerations on various factors and were considered appropriate to effectively reach the target audience. Head of Greening, Landscape and Tree Management Section (H/GLTMS) supplemented that there had been regular cooperation between the Greening, Landscape and Tree Management Section (GLTMS) and schools to organise activities related to greening and tree management. GLTMS would further explore with the Education Bureau, who is a Member of CICG, on Members' suggestions.

[Post Meeting Note: GLTMS had approached the Ocean Park but displaying the panels was considered infeasible as there was no suitable indoor spaces in the theme park. Nevertheless, GLTMS had identified additional venues to display the panels, such as the City Gallery.]

- 8. <u>A Member</u> was pleased with DEVB's efforts to promote the concept of urban forestry to public. In order to enhance the attractiveness of the promotion campaign to the younger generation, he suggested introducing interactive games/mobile app games in shopping malls with reference to some successful experience in foreign countries.
- 9. On the suggestion by <u>a Member</u> of adopting the image of local animal species as characters in the interactive games in the Urban Forestry Roving Exhibitions, <u>AS(GL)2</u> reassured that promoting native species had been one of the key messages, and panels in the roving exhibition had included images of little animals to reinforce their relationship with our urban forests.
- 10. In respect of the Landscape Corner on the Greening Website, a Member suggested sharing the photos with the Tourism Board and promulgating the photos in social media platform.

 Another member concurred that the Landscape Corner should be widely publicised by social media platform, such as through the LCSD official Facebook account. A Member further suggested engaging travel companies to organise local tours to the selected parks and green spaces. H/GLTMS thanked Members' suggestions and would liaise with the Tourism Board as appropriate.
- 11. A Member advocated that more potential places should be

explored and introduced to the public through the Landscape Corner. She also opined that historical background of the places should be described so as to enhance the educational value of the website. Another Member reckoned that educational value should be incorporated in the Landscape Corner.

- 12. <u>A Member</u> opined that the selected venues should be released in batches in the Landscape Corner so as to sustain the popularity of the Landscape Corner. <u>H/GLTMS</u> thanked Member suggestions and responded that they would try to strike a balance on the strategy and timing of releasing the selected venues to avoid over-crowding of visitors in several hot spots.
- 13. <u>A Member</u> suggested that apart from enjoying the greenery, the Landscape Corner might also provide information as regards the community involvement greening activities. <u>H/GLTMS</u> supplemented that LCSD had been operating community engagement greening activities. GLTMS would continue working with LCSD on how to refine the prevailing activities.
- 14. <u>The Chairperson</u> remarked that the content of Landscape Corner might not be as update as commercial magazines. Nevertheless, it would certainly be more informative thus would contain higher educational value to the public.

Item 4: Update of Hong Kong International Urban Forestry Conference 2022 (CICG Paper No. 6/2021)

15. Members were briefed with the aid of PowerPoint on the preparation work for the Hong Kong International Urban Forestry Conference 2022 (IUFC 2022), which was scheduled in early March 2022. The IUFC 2022 would be held in the Hong Kong Science Park at Sha Tin. To maximise the number of beneficiaries in the COVID-19 pandemic era, IUFC 2022 would be held in hybrid mode (i.e. on-site and digital conference). At the first Organising Committee (OC) meeting of IUFC 2022 held on 18 June 2021, OC endorsed that the conference theme would be about the "Well-being" brought by the benefits of urban forestry/greening. Efforts would be made to publicise IUFC 2022 through networking of OC,

- professional institutes and social media platform (e.g. Facebook, Xiaohongshu (小紅書) etc.).
- 16. <u>The Chairperson</u> supplemented that riding on the success of the inaugural IUFC 2020, IUFC 2022 should also comprise technical sessions and activities involving students.
- 17. A Member recalled the success of IUFC 2020 by inviting a number of renowned international speakers. He enquired what would be the contingency plan if the quarantine arrangement for overseas and Mainland speakers persisted by that time. Besides, he suggested hiring conference consultant to oversee the technical operation to ensure smooth delivery of IUFC 2022. H/GLTMS advised that overseas and Mainland speakers might be arranged to pre-record their presentations if they were unable to attend the conference in person. Professional conference consultant would also be engaged to oversee and handle technical matters.
- A Member expected that IUFC 2022 would offer insights to 18. the participants. She advocated that student activities should be organised, such as project presentations and postconference dialogue, to encourage the students to revisit the speakers' insights and apply what they had learnt to contribute to the community. Another Member echoed the views that students should be encouraged to participate in IUFC 2022. He shared his experience in organising competitions in primary schools about school campus landscape design and advocated that the love of natural landscape and greenery should be fostered since young age. A Member also agreed that students' participation should be involved and it was preferable to obtain accreditation for participants from professional bodies. The Chairperson assured that the IUFC 2022 would bring valuable insights to the participants.
- 19. Regarding the topics coverage in IUFC 2022, a Member suggested that coordinated greening efforts between the public and private sectors might be discussed. Another Member opined that topics related to ongoing landscape and greening projects in Hong Kong could be discussed to bring in insights from international speakers. A Member expressed that how to incorporate greening concepts into building management and smart city strategies might worth to be discussed in the conference as well.

- 20. <u>A Member</u> suggested ways to refine the logistics arrangement of IUFC 2022, including arranging site visits in weekend, using bilingual languages as media of communication and inviting non-profit organisations to participate.
- 21. The Chairperson thanked Members for their suggestions and entrusted that the OC would discuss further on the implementation details. He believed IUFC 2022, as an international platform, would help Hong Kong position itself to be an international city on urban forestry.

Item 5 : Drainage Services Department's Greening Works (CICG Paper No. 7/2021)

- 22. Members were briefed with the aid of PowerPoint on the Drainage Services Department (DSD)'s works on blue green infrastructure and biodiversity enhancement, and their community engagement conducted in Kai Tak River Improvement Projects.
- 23. <u>The Chairperson</u> supplemented that DSD would arrange a guided tour for Members to Kai Tak River after the meeting. Members were encouraged to exchange views and raise questions during the tour.

Item 6: Any Other Business

- 24. Members were briefed with the aid of PowerPoint on the latest situation and control measures of *Phauda flammans* (朱紅毛 斑蛾) infestation on the leaves of Ficus trees (榕樹). Although the infestation did not have serious impact on the overall health and structural conditions of the infested trees, their appearance would be deteriorated due to defoliation. Members were also briefed about the current and enhanced control measures in tackling the infestation.
- 25. The Chairperson enquired whether the spreading of the infestation was due to the hot weather in recent years and the pattern of infestation cycle in a year. Head of Tree Management Office (H/TMO) elaborated that there were two to three breeding cycles of *Phauda flammans* in a year and its larva would breed easier and faster in hot weather, which might have triggered the infestation. He reiterated that it was a

natural phenomenon but would affect the appearance of Ficus trees.

- A Member observed that the infested trees were mainly concentrated on the northern and western part of New Territories but no infestation was found on the Ficus in Hong Kong Island. She suspected that the *Phauda flammans* came from the Mainland nearby regions and urged the government to investigate the underlying causes of the spreading. <u>H/TMO</u> responded that the hot weather in recent years might have promoted the breeding of *Phauda flammans* and the situation in HK Island is not too obvious but will keep in view on the spreading of *Phauda flammans*.
- 27. Regarding the control measures, a Member suggested that the Housing Department (HD) should work with the property management companies of public housing estates closely on tree management and to implement control measures. Another Member urged to accelerate the implementation of control and preventive measures so as to stop the spreading in an earlier stage. Besides, the frontline tree management staff should be educated on how to tackle the infestation. H/TMO responded that LCSD, HD and Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department were all along working together to formulate control strategies and implement appropriate measures. Experience sharing sessions had been regularly organised to update the property management companies of the latest tree management techniques and good practices.
- 28. <u>A Member</u> opined that the global climate change might contribute to the rapid spreading of the infestation. Facing this new challenge, the government should start formulating long-term pest control strategy for trees.
- 29. <u>A Member</u> expressed that according to some research studies, hot weather and monotonous tree species would contribute to the spreading of the infestation, which reflected the importance of maintaining vegetation diversity. <u>Another Member</u> echoed that the government should consider carefully on what species of trees to be planted so as to prevent pest in the long run.
- 30. <u>H/GLTMS</u> admitted that the infestation had spread more vigorously than in previous years. To tackle the problem, GLTMS had worked closely with relevant government departments to find out the root cause of the infestation and carry out appropriate control measures. He added that Ficus

was a popular tree species in Hong Kong due to its large tree form and amenity value. Continued efforts would be made to publicise to the property management companies of public housing estates, local councils, property owners and their management companies on the pest control technique.

31. There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:50pm, and Members left for the guided tour to be held at Kai Tak River.

Greening, Landscape and Tree Management Section Development Bureau May 2022