

**10<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the  
Community Involvement Committee on Greening (CICG)  
held on 3 May 2019 at 2:30 pm  
in Conference Room 4, G/F., Central Government Offices, Tamar**

**Notes of Meeting**

**Present**

Chairman

Ir LAM Sai-hung                      Permanent Secretary for Development (Works), DEVB

Non-official Members

Dr Johnnie CHAN

Ms Amy CHAN

Ms CHAN Man-kuen

Mr CHENG Ka-ho

Mr CHEUNG Yung-pong

Dr Jeffrey HUNG

Ms Una LAU

Mrs Miranda LEUNG

Mr LO Cheuk-man

Dr Angie NG

Miss POON Wing-yi

Mr Matthew SIN

Ms Ann SO

Official Members

Mr CHEUNG Kwok-wai	Senior Country Parks Officer (Technical Services), AFCD	(SCPO(TS)/AFCD)
Mr Terence LAM	Assistant Director (Technical), CEDD	(AD(T)/CEDD)
Dr Andy TAM	Chief Curriculum Development Officer (Moral, Civic and National Education) 1, EDB	(CCDO/EDB)
Ms Harriet CHAN	Senior Executive Officer (Community Relations) 2, EPD	(SEO(CR)2/EPD)
Mr Benedict WONG	Assistant Director (Admin), HAD	(AD(Adm)(Atg.) /HAD)

Mrs Helen CHEUNG	Chief Manager/Management (Hong Kong Island and Islands), HD	(CM/M(HK&I)/HD)
Ms Christine AU	Senior Landscape Architect/ Tree Management and Horticulture, HD	(SLA/TM&H/HD)
Ms Wendy OR	Chief Leisure Manager (Green Campaign), LCSD	(CLM(GC)/LCSD)

Secretary

Miss Janet WONG	Head of Greening, Landscape and Tree Management Section, DEVB	(H/GLTMS (Atg))
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**Absent with Apologies**

Dr Samuel CHENG  
Hon CHEUNG Kwok-kwan  
Mr Christopher LAW  
Mr YIU Vor

**In Attendance**

Miss Joey LAM	Deputy Secretary (Works) 1, DEVB	(DS(W)1)
Ms Vina WONG	Head of Greening and Landscape Office, DEVB	(H/GLO)
Ms Florence KO	Head of Tree Management Office, DEVB	(H/TMO)
Dr Samuel LAM	Assistant Secretary (Tree Management) 2, DEVB	(AS(TM)2)
Ms Mime TAN	Assistant Secretary (Greening and Landscape) 2, DEVB	(AS(GL)2)
Ms Salina LEE	Assistant Secretary (Greening and Landscape) 3, DEVB	(AS(GL)3)

**Note-taker**

Ms Cindy KONG	Senior Executive Officer (Greening, Landscape and Tree Management), DEVB	SEO(GLTM)
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**Opening remarks**

1. The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting. DS(W)1 introduced the new Members.

**Item 1 : Confirmation of the minutes of the last meeting**

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2. The draft minutes of the 9<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 23 January 2019 were confirmed without amendment.

**Item 2 : Matters arising from the last meeting**

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3. H/GLO updated Members on the progress of various action items arising from the last meeting, as follows —
  - (a) Paragraph 7: members' suggestion on "1823" had been relayed to the Efficiency Office;
  - (b) Paragraph 9: "Champion Trees" and protected tree species were already included in the different tree categories (Old and Valuable Trees, stonewall trees and trees of particular interest) subject to the enhanced tree removal protocol;
  - (c) Paragraph 18: property management companies had been reminded to pay attention to hidden damage to trees resulting from Typhoon Mangkhut through different publicity events, such as the radio programme at Commercial Radio, advertorials and public seminars; and
  - (d) Paragraph 22: tree species with brittle wood structure and undesirable tree species were set out in the "Guidelines for Tree Risk Assessment and Management Arrangement" promulgated by the GLTMS.
4. On paragraph 15 of the minutes, SEO(CR)2/EPD reported that Environmental Protection Department (EPD) had procured an industrial grade wood shredder, currently placed in Tuen Mun, for shredding tree waste from Super Typhoon Mangkhut into wood chips for reuse as solid fuel, compost and mulch for planting purpose, and soil cover at landfill etc. EPD would encourage departments to adhere to the principle of reduce, reuse and recycle in handling yard waste, and would introduce more diverse proposals as long-term strategies for handling yard waste.

**Item 3 : Public education and community involvement activities organised by the Government in 2018 (CICG Paper No. 5/2019)**

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5. AS(GL)3 reported that in 2018, Government departments had organised over 3 600 community involvement activities with over 1.6 million participants. The activities included roving exhibitions, workshops, training courses, school talks and competition, etc. GLTMS encouraged departments to engage the public more extensively with a view to raising their awareness of greening and proper tree care.
6. The Chairman thanked departments' efforts in organising and arranging public education and community activities in 2018.

**Item 4 : Urban Forestry Support Fund (CICG Paper No. 6/2019)**

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7. AS(TM)2 briefed Members on the proposed Urban Forestry Support Fund ("the Fund"). In the 2019-20 Budget, the Financial Secretary had earmarked \$200 million for the establishment of the Fund to fill the manpower gap, uplift the professional standards of arboriculture and horticulture practitioners, as well as strengthen public education and promotion on proper tree care with a view to improving the quality of our urban forest, protecting public safety and enhancing liveability. The Fund would support the implementation of four major thrusts of initiatives, including  
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  - (a) Study Sponsorship Scheme: to provide financial incentives such as tuition fees sponsorship and scholarship to encourage youngsters to undertake arboriculture, tree management and tree works courses offered by local vocational, tertiary and training institutions;
  - (b) Trainee Programme: to provide opportunities for arboriculture and tree management graduates to receive on-the-job training to acquire practical working experience;
  - (c) International Urban Forestry Conferences: to provide a platform for local practitioners, academics and international experts to share experience, insight and latest research on best urban forestry management practices; and

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- (d) Public Education and Promotion Campaigns: to organise activities to enhance public appreciation of trees and understanding of proper tree care. The proposals for the coming campaign would be outlined for more detailed discussion under Agenda Item 5.
8. The Chairman supplemented that the proposal would be considered by the Legislative Council (LegCo) Panel on Development on 28 May 2019. The aim was to seek funding approval from the LegCo Finance Committee before summer recess in July, and in any event within 2019. The Chairman invited Members' views on the Fund.
9. A Member welcomed the establishment of the Fund. She suggested that the Government should strengthen promotions on greening work and proper tree care in Hong Kong and the career prospects of tree management personnel in secondary schools to attract youngsters to join the arboriculture and horticulture industry.
10. A Member supported the Fund, which would help bring in new blood to the industry, provide on-the-job training, enhance international perspective and increase public awareness. He enquired about the training and work experience required to become qualified arborists, and suggested that youngsters proficient in the sports of mountain or rock climbing could be relevant to tree climbing.
11. A Member asked if the Fund would cover practitioners who entered the arboriculture and horticulture industry without obtaining prior structured training. He remarked that the industry was facing problems concerning accreditation and insufficient structured training. He suggested that the Government should consider setting up an accreditation system and providing more official or partial official training to the industry in the long term.
12. DS(W)1 responded as follows —
- (a) GLTMS would continue to organise more community engagement activities on tree care in schools and produce teaching kits to primary and secondary school students;

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- (b) the trainee programme was aimed at training both arborists and tree workers. Since the length of working experience required to gain professional qualifications were different for arborists and tree workers, the trainee programme would vary from one to three years;
  - (c) the Fund would benefit practitioners with accumulated experience by sponsoring them to take structured training. Although the Fund would not deal with the accreditation issue, GLTMS was separately working with the Qualifications Framework (QF) Secretariat of the Education Bureau (EDB) to assist the industry to develop the Specification of Competency Standards (SCS) which would specify the skills and competencies required for individual jobs and provide the basis for introducing a registration system; and
  - (d) structured training programmes were provided by a number of tertiary and training institutions, including the HKU School of Professional and Continuing Education, Hong Kong Institute of Vocational Education of Vocational Training Council, Technological and Higher Education Institute of Hong Kong (THEi), College of International Education of Hong Kong Baptist University, Li Ka Shing Institute of Professional and Continuing Education of The Open University of Hong Kong and Employees Retraining Board, etc. GLTMS would continue to work closely with them to cater for industry requirements.
13. A Member commented that GLTMS should know the size of the market and the number of existing practitioners in the industry. She also considered it necessary to specify the prospects and future market growth of arborists and other tree specialists to enhance the attractiveness of the industry and raise public awareness on the importance of grooming new blood. She asked if the international conferences would only involve academia and if the Fund would also address other impacts on tree management work in Hong Kong such as global warming and typhoons.
14. A Member commented that the Fund should be used to attract more young people to join the industry and enhance the accreditation of education programmes in the long term.

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15. A Member enquired about the curriculum guidelines, regulatory requirements on the training programmes and internationally recognised professional qualifications awarded by the training institutes. She pointed out that different arboricultural companies seemed to accept different professional qualifications. She also asked if the training sponsorship would be applicable to degree programmes provided by universities or tertiary institutes.
16. DS(W)1 responded as follows —
- (a) According to GLTMS's rough estimate of the manpower shortage in the industry, the offer of 200 places to train arborists was expected to be able to meet the market need;
  - (b) as regards career prospects of arborists, they would rise up their career ladder to assume management positions over time. Some of them might become experienced tree specialists or set up their own companies when they accumulated enough work experience and gained reputation in the industry;
  - (c) while the training sponsorship programme would not cover training/education programmes at degree level (i.e. QF Level 5), we might consider providing scholarships to degree students attaining certain standards as a means of encouragement. GLTMS was also considering covering programmes at QF Level 2 for training tree workers; and
  - (d) the planned issue of the SCS in late 2019 would assist in building up professionalism of the industry and attract young people to join the industry in the long term.
17. A Member supported the Fund and suggested expanding the promotion activities in secondary schools (with Biology and Geography subjects, site visits to initiate the public interest in the greening and beautification of Hong Kong major parks), and organising the Horticulture Day and Competitions. She also hoped that the Fund could also be used for the development of the horticulture profession and promotion of landscape design.
18. A Member shared that she had been teaching some tree management courses to participants who would like to switch

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career and those who were interested. She commented that the former tended to stay in the industry but the latter might not join. She also opined that secondary schools might be reluctant to teach arboriculture and horticulture subjects as they were less popular among students. She also wondered if we could indeed encourage employers to hire and train new practitioners.

19. DS(W)1 said that the number of new practitioners to be supported by the Fund might be adjusted after liaising with training institutes. She said that the reasons for practitioners leaving the industry might be due to structural problems such as unattractive salary, poor work environment, etc. After all, GLTMS was mindful of the need and importance to develop both the arboriculture side and the horticulture side of the industry.
20. The Chairman supplemented that there was a similar Fund established to support the construction industry. As “brain drain” normally occurred during the first few years, the Fund would help retain talents by offering clear career prospect and promotion ladder. The Government had a great influence on the demand of practitioners through tree management policies and public construction projects involving tree management work.
21. A Member commented that Government was the largest employer in respect of arboriculture and horticulture work. The Government could consider stipulating the minimum number of arboriculture and horticulture practitioners required and their qualification in the contract documents to drive the healthy development of the industry.
22. A Member suggested letting Form 4 and Form 5 secondary school students to take preliminary courses on arboriculture to build up their interests for further studies. She also commented that for arborists to be professional, they should not just focus on work experience but should also acquire professional qualifications such as a degree in arboriculture or equivalent similar to landscape architects.
23. DS(W)1 responded that existing Government contracts had already set out the requirements of arborists’ professional qualifications. GLTMS was reviewing the contract

arrangements with a view to standardising the arrangements adopted by different departments. She stressed that arborists and landscape architects were two different professions with different requirements. She further clarified that the objective of the Fund was to uplift the capabilities of the practitioners to conduct tree work in Hong Kong, rather than to support them to pursue further studies in other professions.

24. A Member noted that there was no arboriculture subject covered in the Applied Learning Courses of the New Senior Secondary School Curriculum. He suggested that EDB should consider including arboriculture subject in the New Senior Secondary School Curriculum.
25. The Chairman appealed for Members' support to the Fund and encouraged companies to offer more training places. A Member said that property management companies would provide training places since property management companies and owners' corporations realised the importance of tree care in the light of the damage arising from Super Typhoons.

**Item 5 : 「人樹共融」 Promotion Campaign 2019  
(CICG Paper No. 7/2019)**

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26. AS(GL)2 briefed Members on the proposed Annual Promotion Campaign with \$3 million earmarked every year under the Fund to enhance public appreciation of landscape and trees, public education on proper tree care and strengthen community involvement. The proposed promotion events included mascot design competition, thematic guided tour, roving exhibition, publications, media campaign, seminars, school talks, training for uniform groups and teaching kits.
27. A Member suggested that social media should be used more extensively to promote the activities such as posting tree pictures of the guided tour in the website. She also suggested that the Government should reach out to some “targeted” media through editors' lunch, proactively convey important messages to the public (e.g. progress of post-Mangkhat clearance works), organise more promotion work such as green volunteers, and bring in the elderly to assist in pre-typhoon preparation work in the districts.

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28. A Member concurred and suggested keeping the media informed of the pre-typhoon preparation and planning. For post-typhoon work, she also proposed liaising with Non-governmental Organisations (NGOs), club houses and shopping malls to organise workshops and produce videos on using tree waste from typhoons into handiwork. For mascot design, GLTMS could work with design schools such as the Hong Kong Polytechnic University to come up with key messages and awareness instead of through public competition. She opined to have regular media editors' luncheons to convey key messages and GLTMS could consider engaging the Key Opinion Leaders to promote tree work done by the Government.
29. A Member suggested creating a social media page for the mascot (from mascot's angle) in the website using different social media channels (such as Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn etc.) to reach different age groups. Apart from seminars, exhibitions and school talks, the Government might consider drawing reference from the "Tree Adoption" programmes in Beijing and Japan to release a list of trees opened for public adoption.
30. A Member commented that it was more effective to train the trainers such as providing training kits to teachers. He also suggested incorporating the activities such as mascot design competition as a part of the school curriculum for long-term training, engaging design schools/tertiary institutes and professionals as the judging panel, and doing promotion through social media.
31. A Member suggested that assistance and support should be provided to district bodies for organising programmes like 「樹醫生」 with equipment to conduct tree inspection before the wet season in their districts.
32. A Member suggested collaborating with housing estates to allocate space for residents to plant trees. She also opined that public engagement activities should be simple and convenient to the public. She also suggested organising photo competition, arranging more family based activities, and increasing the number of Greening Ambassadors.

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33. A Member appreciated the Government for its promotional efforts. Yet, as most activities were unidirectional, the impact could be low. She suggested collaborating with local district organisations, which were eager to participate but often encountered difficulties in finding suitable venues and co-organising partners
34. A Member suggested conveying the key messages by linking trees with our daily lives, and making use of big data and technology such as mobile applications. It would also be useful to consider collaborating with other cities in the Greater Bay Area where the tree species and the climate were similar to those in Hong Kong.
35. A Member suggested partnering with EDB to put the teaching kits in the Hong Kong Education City (「香港教育城」) and Resources Depository (「教學資源庫」). He supported organising guided tours and training retirees to be tour guides. In addition, he considered that QR code showing tree information would facilitate the holding of guided tours.
36. A Member suggested investing more resources on promoting theme/major parks in 18 districts to cultivate public appreciation on trees and create a sense of belonging. She also supported enhancing the Green Ambassadors' arboriculture and horticulture knowledge and training them to be the guides to promote parks.
37. A Member suggested setting up a Steering Committee on Promotion Campaign (「人樹共融督導委員會」) for private housing estates and Housing Department to organise the public education activities. She commented that different short-term and long-term activities could be provided to different age groups. For example, QR code could be developed for children to monitor the growth of trees they planted while senior citizens could be invited to join promotion activities at the districts.
38. A Member suggested adding human element in the public education activities to build connection between people and trees (e.g. tree certificates for trees planted).

## Action

39. DS(W)1 thanked Members for their suggestions. GLTMS would consider using social media in the promotion work, developing QR code, organising media lunch and more activities in districts, and producing teaching kits. She also said the Government would continue to educate the public on the life-cycle of trees, how to care for trees and manage trees for public safety. Members' valuable suggestions would be taken into consideration when GLTMS organised the promotion campaign.
40. The Chairman thanked Members and concluded the meeting.

### **Item 6 : Any Other Business**

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41. There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:50 pm.

**Greening, Landscape and Tree Management Section  
Development Bureau  
August 2019**