





57/05 The minutes of the meeting held on 25 February 2005 were confirmed without amendments.

## **II. Matters Arising from the Last Meeting**

### **(a) Education and Publicity Programme 2004 - 2005 (Para. 09/05)**

58/05 Miss CHAN Yu-nam briefed members on AFCD's plan to publicize the new legislation on protection of endangered species upon its enactment, which included printing of pamphlets, production of Announcement of Public Interest, arranging advertisement on MTR and KCR trains, and re-designing the Department's homepage on endangered species protection.

59/05 Miss CHAN Yu-nam continued by reporting that the radio play contest on endangered species protection was held in May 2005 and received 49 entries from 28 secondary schools. The winning entry had been broadcasted through RTHK Radio 2. A traders seminar and identification training course on CITES-listed species would be arranged in late 2005 under the Hong Kong / Guangdong Joint Education and Publicity Programme.

### **(b) A Bill to Amend the Ordinance on Protection of Endangered Species (Para. 23/05)**

60/05 Mr CHEUNG Chi-sun informed the meeting that on the request of some of the Committee members, a special meeting was held on 25 February 2005. The Protection of Endangered Species of Animals and Plants Bill was introduced into the Legislative Council on 27 April 2005. A Bills Committee had been formed by 11 members with The Hon. CHOY So-yuk as the Chairman. Traders' representatives had been invited to the next Bills Committee meeting scheduled for 4 October 2005. In the previous two weeks, AFCD had collected further views from traders on the proposed legislative amendment. Mr C.C. LAY added that non-government green groups were also consulted.

61/05 A member enquired about views of the consulted parties. Mr CHEUNG Chi-sun answered that in general traders and green groups agreed to the proposed amendments, with some worried that the proposed exemption of licensing requirement for local possession of specimens of Appendix II species (except live animal and plants) might create problems in the control.

62/05 A member said that traders worried that the proposed exemption would increase the risk of possessing illegal specimens, leading to financial loss upon forfeiture of the items. Mr CHEUNG Chi-sun responded that whether or not to apply for forfeiture would depend on the nature of individual case. Moreover, making such a forfeiture order or not was the decision of the court or magistrate. Mr C.C. LAY added that the Bill might be revised subject to comments of the Bills Committee.

### **III. Status of the Giant Pandas from Mainland China: AnAn and JiaJia Five Years Later**

63/05 The Chairman welcomed Ms Suzanne Gendron and Mr Timothy NG Sau-kin of Ocean Park to the meeting.

64/05 Ms Suzanne Gendron briefed the meeting on the husbandry of the two giant pandas AnAn and JiaJia in Ocean Park, and reported that their health status was reasonably good. She then presented Ocean Park's education and public awareness programme on giant pandas, and its joint project with Panda Conservation Hospital at Wolong, Sichuan for conservation of the animal. Mr C.C. LAY thanked the Ocean Park for taking care of the two giant pandas.

65/05 A member asked about the plan of Ocean Park to keep AnAn and JiaJia when they were considered not suitable for display. Ms Suzanne Gendron answered that as long as the animals felt comfortable, Ocean Park would try to maintain them in the display area to avoid unnecessary stress by transportation. Ocean Park was also discussing with Hong Kong and mainland officials to import another giant panda upon death of AnAn or JiaJia.

66/05 Ms Suzanne Gendron continued by briefing members that a new panda house would be constructed under Ocean Park's Redevelopment Masterplan. Ocean Park was also considering to establish a co-operative conservation programme with Wolong to train young giant panda cubs.

67/05 A member asked about the amount spent and the contributions of the Government on keeping the two pandas. Ms Suzanne Gendron said that the annual expenditure of the programme was 8 million dollars. The Government had been supporting Ocean Park by providing routine laboratory test against pesticide in the bamboo for the animals. Although Ocean Park had committed to take care of the two giant pandas, the Government's additional support was always welcome.

68/05 The member asked whether the Committee could ask the Government to provide adequate funding to support Ocean Park on the giant panda programme. Mr C.C. LAY responded that the support currently provided by the Government would remain unchanged.

### **IV. Ocean Park's Redevelopment Masterplan: A Preliminary Overview**

69/05 Mr CHEUNG Chi-sun informed the meeting that under Ocean Park's Redevelopment Masterplan, some new species to be acquired by Ocean Park were endangered species. Members' views on the proposal would help the Department in consideration of the application for the required licenses when submitted.

70/05 Ms Suzanne Gendron presented Ocean Park's Redevelopment Masterplan, including new facilities such as veterinary hospital, shark aquarium, bird paradise, indoor stadium for marine mammal, rainforest with fishes, birds, reptiles and amphibians, polar adventure with penguin, polar bear, beluga whale and seal, and thrill mountain for giant pandas. She remarked that the Redevelopment Masterplan presented at the meeting was a conceptual proposal, details of which was subject to approval by the Government. It was anticipated that the redevelopment would be completed in 2010.

71/05 With regard to the source of the new species, Ms Suzanne Gendron said that some of the animals would be from captivity or rescued group, or collected from the wild. In addition, education and publicity programmes for each of the CITES exhibits would be arranged to tie in with the display.

72/05 A member asked whether Ocean Park would consider the display of rare local species such as horseshoe crabs to promote conservation of local species. Ms Suzanne Gendron said that the Redevelopment Masterplan would also cover local endangered species aspects.

73/05 A member enquired about the plan of Ocean Park to strengthen its education programmes on protection of endangered species. Exhibition centre similar to AFCD's Endangered Species Resource Centre could be considered.

74/05 Ms Suzanne Gendron said that the Redevelopment Master had designated the main entrance as an area to deliver message on nature conservation. Exhibition kiosks to disseminate information such as conservation situation in Asia as well as overseas conservation projects supported by Ocean Park would be provided. Ocean Park would work with AFCD to provide interactive exhibition facilities as appropriate. In addition, it would strengthen the educational programme to include new activities such as education camp on nature conservation and natural science.

75/05 Members had no further questions. The Chairman thanked Ms Suzanne Gendron and Mr Timothy NG Sau-kin for attending the meeting.

(Ms Suzanne Gendron and Mr Timothy NG Sau-kin left at this juncture.)

76/05 Members had no further comments on Ocean Parks' Redevelopment Masterplan. Mr C.C. LAY said that Ocean Park had yet to finalize the list of the new species. AFCD would continue to work with Ocean Park to ensure compliance with CITES requirements and local legislations.

**V. Report on CITES Standing Committee, Plants Committee and Animals Committee Meetings and Annual Meeting of the CITES Management Authorities of the Central Government, HKSAR and Macao SAR**  
(Committee Paper: CP/ESAC/6/2005)

77/05 Mr CHEUNG Chi-sun presented Committee Paper CP/ESAC/6/2005. Members noted contents of the document.

**VI. Summary Progress Report of CITES Work**  
(Committee Paper: CP/ESAC/7/2005)

78/05 Mr KWAN Sai-ping presented Committee Paper CP/ESAC/7/2005. With regard to Case No. 34/2005 mentioned in paragraph 5 of the Committee Paper, he informed the meeting that the accused were found guilty in court and were fined \$25,000. In view of the increased number of illegal import of pangolin and its parts, AFCD had strengthened the liaison with Customs and Excise Department and the Police on the matter. Mr CHEUNG Chi-sun drew members' attention to the increase in number of licenses and certificates issued during the reporting period. Although AFCD had deployed staff from the inspection team to assist in the licensing work, the percentage of applications meeting the pledged performance targets was below 100%. Work of the Department on inspection of the CITES items had been affected.

79/05 A member noted that most of the seized items were imported from Southeast Asian countries. He asked if AFCD had discussed with respective CITES authorities on the matter. Mr KWAN Sai-ping said that upon each seizure, AFCD would provide CITES Secretariat and CITES authority of the exporting country with information about the case. Mr CHEUNG Chi-sun added that the arrest of a suspect in Tanzania in Case No. 282/2005 was the result of quick exchange of information between Hong Kong and Lusaka Agreement Task Force in Africa. The case was highlighted by the CITES Secretariat at the CITES Standing Committee meeting as an example to encourage efficient communication between Parties.

80/05 A member enquired about the information required to initiate a prosecution in Case No. 18/2005. Mr KWAN Sai-ping said that information such as identity of the recipient and agent was required.

81/05 A member said that the average number of people visiting the Endangered Species Resource Centre in a day was not very high. He suggested to strengthen the publicity of the Centre. Mr CHEUNG Chi-sun responded that people visiting the Centre were mainly students who usually visited the Centre on school holidays, causing an uneven distribution in number of visitors. AFCD would consider strengthening the publicity work to attract different groups of visitors.

82/05 A member enquired about the purpose of disposing the seized items to Correctional Service Department. Mr CHEUNG Chi-sun answered that live items were exhibited in prisons for enriching inmates' life during imprisonment. Stuffed items were displayed in exhibition centres for visitors and prison staff.

**VII. Serving the Community - Service Standards Committee 21<sup>st</sup> Monitoring Report**

(Committee Paper: CP/ESAC/8/2005)

83/05 Miss CHAN Yu-nam presented Committee Paper CP/ESAC/8/2005. The revised Chinese Appendix of the document was tabled. She explained to members that the drop in the percentage of applications meeting the pledged target was due to the increased number of applications received during the reporting period. AFCD would keep in view of the situation and try its best to avoid delay in the process.

**VIII. Any Other Business**

84/05 Members had no other business to discuss.

**IX. Date of Next Meeting**

85/05 The Chairman said that members would be informed of the meeting date in due course.

86/05 The meeting was adjourned at 4:40 p.m.

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