

**Country and Marine Parks Board (CMPB)**  
**Minutes of the 59th Meeting**

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*Date* : 30 October 2015 (Friday)

File Ref.: AF CPA 01/1/0

*Time* : 2:30 p.m.

*Venue* : Room 701, Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD)  
Headquarters

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**ATTENDANCE**

**Chairman**

Mr TANG King-shing, GBS, PDSM

**Members**

Mr Jan CHAN

Mr CHAN Ka-kui, BBS, JP

Professor CHIU Lai-har, Rebecca, JP

Mr CHOW Kwok-keung

Ms Suzanne M. GENDRON

Ms KIU Kin-yan, Judy

Ms KWAN Sau-wan

Mr LAM Chung-lun, Billy, GBS, JP

Dr LAU Tai Wai, David

Mr LEE Chung-ming, Eric

Professor LEUNG Mei-yee, Kenneth

Ms MA Miu-wah, Katherine

Dr MAN Chi-sum, JP

Mr MO Ka-hung, Joseph

Ms WONG Pik-yan, Nicole

Dr LEUNG Siu-fai, JP	Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation (DFAC)
Dr P M SO	Deputy Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation (Acting)
Mr Elvis AU, JP	Assistant Director (Nature Conservation & Infrastructure Planning), Environmental Protection Department
Miss Charmaine WONG, JP	Assistant Director (2), Home Affairs Department
Ms Doris CHOW	Assistant Director (Estate Management), Lands Department
Mr LAI Chi-tung	Assistant Director of Marine (Port Control)
Ms WOO Jacinta Kit Ching	Assistant Director of Planning (New Territories)

Secretary

Mr Patrick TSANG	Assistant Secretary (Boards) <sup>1</sup> , AFCD
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**IN ATTENDANCE**

Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Mr Patrick LAI	Assistant Director (Country and Marine Parks) (Acting)
Mr Franco NG	Senior Country Parks Officer (South East)
Ms Y N NGAR	Senior Country Parks Officer (North-west)
Mr Alan CHAN	Senior Marine Parks Officer
Mr Alfred WONG	Senior Country Parks Officer/Ranger Services (Acting)
Mr K S CHEUNG	Country Parks Officer (Special Duties)
Ms LI Hiu-yan	Marine Parks Officer (Development)

Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD)

Ms TAM Siu-yuet, Vienna                      Senior Leisure Manager (Contracts)1

Water Supplies Department (WSD)

Ms LAM Lai-hang, Mable                      Senior Engineer/Project Planning

For Agenda Item V onlyHighways Department (HyD)

Mr CHAN Shiu On, James                      Chief Engineer, Hong Kong-zhuhai-Macao Bridge  
(HZMB)

Mr FUNG Po Hei, Matthew                      Senior Engineer, HZMB

Ove Arup & Partners Hong Kong Limited

Dr YIN Kek Kiong                              Project Director

Mr Terence LEUNG                              Deputy Project Manager

Environmental Resources Management

Dr Jasmine NG                                  Principal Consultant

Hong Kong Cetacean Research Project

Dr Samuel HUNG                                  Research Director

**ABSENT WITH APOLOGIES**

Ms CHAN Po-kam, Beatrice

Dr HAU Chi-hang, Billy

Honourable HO Chun-yin, Steven, BBS

Dr NG Cho-nam, SBS, JP

Ms SO Ka Man

Mr Donald CHOY

Assistant Director (Leisure Services)<sup>3</sup>, LCSD

Mr CHAU Sai-wai

Assistant Director / Development, Water Supplies  
Department

### **OPENING REMARKS BY THE CHAIRMAN**

124/15 The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting, in particular Dr P M SO, Deputy Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation (Acting); Ms Doris CHOW, Assistant Director (Estate Management) of the Lands Department; Ms TAM Siu-yuet, Vienna, Senior Leisure Manager (Contracts)<sup>1</sup> of the LCSD; Ms LAM Lai-hang, Mable, Senior Engineer/Project Planning of the WSD; and Mr Alfred WONG, Senior Country Parks Officer/Ranger Services (Acting) of the AFCD, who were attending the meeting for the first time.

125/15 The Chairman informed members that, as an established practice and to facilitate the taking of minutes, sound recording would be made during the meeting. The audio records would be destroyed after the minutes were confirmed.

### **OPENING REMAKRS BY THE COUNTRY AND MARINE PARKS AUTHORITY**

126/15 Dr LEUNG Siu-fai, JP, Country and Marine Parks Authority (the Authority), gave an opening remark to welcome the Chairman and members for serving the Board in the coming new term. He also thanked five retired members Professor CHU Lee-man; Ms HUI Mei-sheung, Tennessy, JP; Dr LI Shing-foon, Eric; Mr TANG Tat-chi, William; and Ms WONG Lai-yin, Idy for their contributions to the Board in the past years.

### **INTRODUCTION OF MEMBERS BY THE CHAIRMAN**

127/15 The Chairman introduced to the meeting the following six new non-official members who had joined the Board w.e.f. 1 September 2015:

Mr CHAN Ka-kui, BBS, JP

Ms CHAN Po-kam, Beatrice

Ms KIU Kin-yan, Judy

Dr LAU Tai Wai, David

Professor LEUNG Mei-yee, Kenneth

Ms WONG Pik-yan, Nicole

128/15 The Chairman then introduced himself and all attending members and government representatives.

(Mr LEE Chung-ming, Eric attended the meeting at this juncture.)

## **AGENDA ITEMS**

### **I. Confirmation of Minutes of the Last Meeting held on 2 June 2015**

129/15 The minutes of the last meeting held on 2 June 2015 were confirmed without amendments.

(Ms Suzanne M. GENDRON attended the meeting at this juncture.)

### **II. Guidelines on Declaration of Interests**

130/15 The Chairman drew members' attention to the "Guidelines on Declaration of Interests" and advised them to disclose any direct personal or pecuniary interest in any matter under consideration by the Board prior to discussion of the item. Members noted that declaration of interests could be made verbally during a Board meeting or in writing to the Chairman or the Secretary before the meeting. The Chairman supplemented that the attendance record of members at Board meetings would be made available to the public and the media upon request.

### III. Formation of Committees of the Board and Election of Committee Chairmen

131/15 Mr Patrick LAI briefed members on the formation of the two Committees under the Board, namely the Country Parks Committee and the Marine Parks Committee, respectively for the current term in accordance with Section 5(7) of the Country Parks Ordinance (CPO).

132/15 Members elected the Committee Chairmen as follows:-

<u>Committee</u>	<u>Chairman</u>
Country Parks Committee	Professor CHIU Lai-har, Rebecca
Marine Parks Committee	Professor LEUNG Mei-yee, Kenneth

133/15 The membership lists of the Country Parks Committee and the Marine Parks Committee are at Annexes I and II respectively.

134/15 Members noted that the Board Secretary would approach the respective Chairmen to confirm the date of the first meeting and work out the meeting schedules for the year 2016 which would be distributed to members afterward.

[Post-meeting note: The first meeting of the Country Parks Committee and the Marine Parks Committee were held on 18 December 2015 and 19 February 2016 respectively. The meeting schedules of the Board and its two Committees for 2016 were issued to their respective members on 19 January 2016.

(A group photo was taken for CMPB members at this juncture.)

### IV. Matters Arising from the Last Meeting

(a) The Proposal to Designate the Brothers Marine Park (Para. 52/15 to 90/15)

135/15 Mr Alan CHAN reported that the proposal to designate the Brothers Marine Park (BMP) was discussed at length and obtained general support from members at the meeting on 2 June 2015. In October 2015, the Chief Executive in Council (CE in C) had directed, in

accordance with Section 7(1) of the Marine Parks Ordinance (MPO) (Cap. 476), the Authority to prepare a draft map showing the proposed BMP so as to commence the statutory procedures for marine park designation. Members would be briefed about the details of the draft map of the proposed BMP and invited to offer their comments under Agenda Item V of the meeting.

(b) Preliminary Boundaries and Management Plans of the Proposed Southwest Lantau and Soko Islands Marine Parks (Para. 91/15 to 112/15)

136/15 Mr Alan CHAN reported that having sought members' support at the meeting on 2 June 2015, the Authority had launched a fresh round of public engagement in July 2015. In the last three months, the Authority had consulted the majority of key stakeholders, including major fishermen's organisations and representatives; relevant Rural Committees; the Tourism, Agriculture, Fisheries and Environmental Hygiene Committee of the Islands District Council (離島區議會旅遊漁農及環境衛生委員會); green groups; eco-tour operators; the Capture Fisheries Subcommittee (捕撈漁業小組委員會); and recreation fishing groups. The Authority planned to consult marine operators / relevant committees as well as other stakeholders later. Upon completion of public consultation and revision of the draft maps and management plans of the two proposed marine parks, the Authority would consult the Board again in due course.

(c) Proposal to Designate the Country Park Enclaves at Fan Kei Tok, Sai Lau Kong and Nam Shan as part of the Country Parks (Para.113/15 to 115/15)

137/15 Mr K S CHEUNG reported that the Authority had consulted two key rural organisations, namely the District Minor Works and Environmental Improvement Committee of the North District Council (北區區議會地區小型工程及環境改善委員會) and the Tourism, Agriculture, Fisheries and Environmental Hygiene Committee of the Islands District Council, in July 2015. Having considered that the local stakeholders concerned and the Board did not have major comments on the proposal and/or the Authority had properly addressed relevant views, the Authority had issued Working Paper: WP/CMPB/13/2015 to members by circulation on 27 August 2015. The Paper updated members on the progress of consultation and sought their comments on invoking the statutory procedures under the CPO for the designation proposals.

138/15 Mr CHEUNG said the members generally supported the designation proposals. As for the proposal to designate country park enclave near Nam Shan as part of the Lantau South Country Park (LSCP), a member during the circulation of Working Paper WP/CMPB/13/2015

suggested that the Authority should check with the Development Bureau and the Planning Department to ensure that there was no mid or long term development proposals under study that might conflict with this proposal. The Development Bureau and the Planning Department were consulted subsequently and they had no major comments on this proposal. Besides, another member also raised objection to the incorporation of the enclave near Nam Shan into the LSCP during the circulation of working paper and he shared the same views put forward by the South Lantao Rural Committee. Taking into account the fact that the majority of stakeholders of the three country park enclaves as well as relevant Rural Committees expressed no strong views on the designation proposals in previous consultations and the majority of members were in support of the designation proposals, the Authority was of the view that it was proper to invoke the statutory procedures under the CPO for the incorporation of the three enclaves into the respective country parks.

139/15 Mr CHEUNG continued that the Authority had already invoked the statutory procedures under the CPO and sought the direction of the CE in C to refer the approved maps of the Plover Cove Country Park (PCCP) and the LSCP to the Authority for replacement by new maps in accordance with Section 15(1) of the CPO. After that, the Authority would prepare new draft maps of the proposed PCCP and the LSCP to replace the approved maps in accordance with Section 8(1) of the CPO, and then seek members' views on the draft maps in accordance with Section 8(4) of the CPO.

**V. Preparation of Draft Map for the Proposed Brothers Marine Park  
(Working Paper: WP/CMPB/14/2015)**

140/15 The Chairman reminded members to declare if there are potential conflicts of interests in the matters to be discussed under this agenda item. Mr LAM Chung-lun, Billy, GBS, JP declared that he was a member of Lantao Development Advisory Committee.

141/15 The Chairman welcomed the following persons to the meeting:

Highways Department

Mr CHAN Shiu On, James                      Chief Engineer, HZMB

Mr FUNG Po Hei, Matthew                      Senior Engineer, HZMB



Ove Arup & Partners Hong Kong Limited

Dr YIN Kek Kiong                      Project Director

Mr Terence LEUNG                      Deputy Project Manager

Environmental Resources Management

Dr Jasmine NG                          Principal Consultant

Hong Kong Cetacean Research Project

Dr Samuel HUNG                        Research Director

142/15      With the aid of a powerpoint presentation, Mr Alan CHAN introduced the background of the proposal. Mr Terence LEUNG briefed members on the proposed boundary and management plan of the BMP. Mr Alan CHAN then elaborated on the details of the draft map of the BMP and the way forward.

143/15      As regards a member's enquiry about the reasons why Tai Mo To (大磨刀) would not be demarcated as a Core Area, Mr Terence LEUNG answered that according to a recent fish resources survey, the waters around Tai Mo To were not found to support relatively high abundance and biomass of fisheries resources. Hence, this area would not be demarcated as a Core Area.

144/15      In response to the member's enquiry about the use of toxic antifouling paints, such as toxic tributyltin (三丁基錫) and triphenyltin (三苯錫基), on the anchored vessels in the Sham Shui Kok Anchorages (SSKAs), Mr Terence LEUNG replied that the Marine Department stipulated that the maximum length of ocean-going vessels anchored at the SSKAs No. 1 and 2 was 180 m. Given that the radius of swing circle for a 180 m long vessel was 290 m, three ocean-going vessels at most could anchor in the SSKAs at the same time. Since a limited number of ocean-going vessels could anchor in the SSKAs, the impact of vessel operation and related activities on the marine environment of SSKAs should not be significant.

145/15 Mr LAI Chi-tung supplemented that the SSKAs were mainly used by ocean-going vessels which were required to comply with the International Maritime Organization's (IMO) requirements covering prohibition of the use of toxic antifouling paints. Hence, toxic antifouling paints had not been used on the anchored ocean-going vessels in the SSKAs. Besides, local vessels carrying out mid-stream operation (loading / unloading/ trans-shipment of cargoes) within the SSKAs had already complied with the IMO's requirements covering prohibition of the use of tributyltin and triphenyltin. As these two kinds of toxic antifouling paints were banned in Hong Kong, marine operators could not purchase them on the market and small repair yards serving the local shipping fleet could not import them as well. Therefore, these two kinds of toxic antifouling paints had not been used on local vessels.

146/15 A member strongly supported the establishment of the proposed BMP. Given the low usage of vessels in the SSKAs No. 1 and 2, he was of the view that only one of the anchorages should be retained. He also said that the consultants or the AFCD should consider whether there would be any change in the usage of vessels in the SSKAs after the operation of the HZMB and the Hong Kong Boundary Crossing Facilities (HKBCF) and the resultant impacts.

147/15 Dr LEUNG Siu-fai, JP responded that there was a need to strike a balance between the interests of relevant stakeholders in drawing up the management plan (including zoning scheme) of the proposed BMP. The Authority had once considered not to incorporate the SSKAs into the proposed BMP and concluded that the SSKAs as well as the impacts of anchored vessels still existed whether the SSKAs were to be incorporated into the proposed BMP or not. As the area of the SSKAs was limited and could accommodate three ocean-going vessels at most concurrently, it was expected that there would not be significant increase in the usage of the SSKAs by vessels in the future. Upon incorporation of the SSKAs into the proposed BMP, the Authority could closely monitor the SSKAs usage and consider taking appropriate measures whenever necessary.

148/15 Ms LI Hiu-yan supplemented that relevant departments, in collaboration with marine operators, had explored the possibility of re-provisioning the SSKAs in other areas of the western waters of Hong Kong. However, it had not been able to identify suitable sites in the area with similar characteristics. Moreover, the Dolphin Habitat Index (DHI) of the SSKAs was the highest in the waters around The Brothers. Having duly considered the views and

concerns of relevant stakeholders and the DHI, the Authority opined that co-existence of the BMP and the SSKAs was acceptable.

149/13 On the member's suggestion about demarcating Tai Mo To as a Core Area, Mr Alan CHAN responded that the demarcation of Core Area had been discussed thoroughly with various fishermen's organisations in the two stages of public consultation, with a view to striking a balance between conservation and sustainable development of the fisheries industry in the BMP. Fishermen repetitively expressed their concerns that too many areas demarcated as Core Areas would affect their fishing activities. Apart from taking fishermen's concerns into consideration, the Authority noted that the waters around Tai Mo To were not deep enough for deployment of Artificial Reefs (ARs) which was also one of the reasons that ruled out the site as a Core Area. Therefore, the Authority proposed that only the waters around Siu Mo To would be demarcated as a Core Area. The proposed Core Area at Siu Mo To coupled with deployment of ARs therein would help enhance fisheries resources of the BMP and the North Lantau waters in a sustainable manner. The majority of fishermen agreed to the Authority's proposal.

150/15 In response to a member's enquiries, Dr Samuel HUNG replied that the data of DHI were collected during 2001 – 2012. This set of data was used as the baseline data to establish the proposed boundary of the BMP instead of the data after 2012 because they were collected before construction of the HKBCF in 2012. It was expected that there would be a decrease in dolphin usage of the waters around The Brothers during construction of the HKBCF and such a trend actually occurred between 2013 and 2015. Since designation of the proposed BMP aimed to restore the dolphin usage to at least the baseline level in the long term by attracting dolphins to return to the waters after completion of construction of the HKBCF, the data collected after 2012 were not used accordingly. Regarding the impacts of vessel speed on dolphins, he said that vessels travelling at higher speeds did have greater impacts on dolphins. On one hand they had greater chance to collide with dolphins; on the other hand they would produce higher noise level and this would disturb the acoustic behaviour of dolphins. He referred to the findings of the Three-Runway System (3RS) Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) which indicated that the noise level of vessel speed at 10 knots or below was more or less the same but the noise level increased significantly at speeds higher than 10 knots. He also pointed out that high-speed ferries (HSF) could not be operated at a speed of 10 knots or below. Hence, they had avoided navigating in the Sha Chau and Lung Kwu Chau Marine Park (SCLKWMP) because the maximum speed limit of vessels within the SCLKWMP was 10 knots. As HSF posed serious impacts on dolphins, their avoidance of navigating within marine

parks enabled marine parks to act as dolphin sanctuary. In light of the above, he opined that the regulation for limiting the speed of marine traffic to not exceeding 10 knots within the BMP was appropriate. Finally, he remarked that the number of vessels in the BMP might be a concern as plenty of vessels, even at a slow speed, would also impact the dolphins.

151/15 A member suggested that the Authority might make reference to the eco resort operation mode of Lady Elliot Island in the Great Barrier Reef, Australia for sustainable development of ecotourism in the marine park.

152/15 Mr Alan CHAN responded that the Authority agreed to the idea of sustainable development of recreational activities in marine parks given that recreation was one of the three major objectives of the marine parks. As Siu Mo To was currently a restricted area under the jurisdiction of the Civil Aviation Department, the Authority could not make use of the land platform and facilities therein for guided/sightseeing tours of dolphin. As a result, such tours could only be conducted on vessel. Furthermore, the Authority was exploring the feasibility of organising fisheries related eco-tours in the BMP as suggested by some fisheries organisations and tour operators.

153/15 A member suggested that education and publicity should also be provided to dolphin-watching tour operators in advance of the establishment of the BMP.

154/15 Mr Alan CHAN responded that the Authority shared her suggestion and would organise education programmes to publicise the existence and functions of BMP, and promulgate the Code of Conduct for Dolphin Watching Activities to dolphin-watching tour operators.

155/15 On a member's enquiry about whether ex-gratia payments would be made to affected fishermen due to loss of catch arising from a diminution in fishing grounds after the establishment of the BMP, Mr Alan CHAN answered that it was expected that fisheries resources of a marine park and its neighbouring areas would be enhanced in a sustainable way in the long term after the establishment of the marine park, thereby enabling fishermen to increase their catch. As such, similar to other marine parks, ex-gratia payments would not be made to affected fishermen in designation of BMP.

(Miss Charmaine WONG, JP left the meeting at this juncture.)

156/15 The Chairman highlighted that members should give strong support to the Authority for seeking funding to form a new team as soon as possible as the set-up of the team was indispensable for effective management of the BMP.

157/15 The Chairman summed up that members had no objection to the draft map of the proposed BMP and its explanatory statement.

158/15 The Chairman thanked the representatives of the HyD and the consultants for attending the meeting.

(The representatives of the HyD and the Consultants left the meeting at this juncture.)

**VI. Country Parks Public Education Programme: Take your Litter Home (Working Paper: WP/CMPB/15/2015)**

159/15 Mr Alfred WONG briefed members on Working Paper WP/CMPB/15/2015.

160/15 Having thoroughly discussed the item, members highly commended this Country Parks Public Education Programme (the Programme) and made the following suggestions to the AFCD:

- (a) to simplify the trendy Chinese version of the slogan “Take Your Litter Home” 「自己垃圾 自己帶走」 to 「自己垃圾自己收」 with a view to making it more appealing to the youth;
- (b) to either remind country park visitors to bring their litter bags or distribute environmental-friendly litter bags to them;
- (c) to extend the pilot scheme by retaining litter bins and litter stockades at main entrances of country parks only and removing all litter bins at other areas of country parks;

- (d) to promulgate the “Take Your Litter Home” message (the message) at points of departure of boats for marine parks;
- (e) to deploy staff to clean up slopes that were currently litter blackspots;
- (f) to disseminate the message to the youth communities through social media;
- (g) to deploy more volunteers to disseminate the message and monitor the hygiene conditions at the trial sites on weekends since more ad hoc hikers appeared on weekends;
- (h) to conduct regular review on the pilot scheme;
- (i) to disseminate the message to Mainland visitors through websites of Mainland hiking groups;
- (j) to request event organisers to clean up litter after the event;
- (k) to deliver publicity materials to promote waste reduction to schools before school trip season in October and November;
- (l) to invite the Civil Aid Service to participate in the Programme; and
- (k) to invite tertiary education institutions to participate in the Programme.

161/15 The Chairman summed up that members highly commended and supported the Programme. He agreed that school education was an effective means to encourage members of the public to nurture a good habit of waste reduction since childhood. In addition, weekday hikers were usually regular hikers who had a sense of keeping the countryside clean while weekend hikers, consisting of many ad hoc hikers, might not have the idea of taking litter away after hiking. Hence, education activities should be tailored for each group. Finally, he advised the Authority to extend the pilot scheme to all the country parks as soon as possible given that the pilot scheme was so positively received.

162/15 Mr Patrick LAI thanked the support and contribution of the 17 local green groups and hiking groups to the Programme.

**VII. Summary Report of Country Parks Committee (CPC)**  
**(Working Paper: WP/CMPB/16/2015)**

163/15 As Professor CHU Lee-man, Chairman of the Country Parks Committee for the term 2013 - 2015, had retired from the Committee, the Chairman invited Mr Patrick LAI to present the Summary Report of CPC on behalf of Professor CHU. Members noted the Report.

**VIII. Summary Report of Marine Parks Committee (MPC)**  
**(Working Paper WP/CMPB/17/2015)**

164/15 As Dr LI Shing-foon, Eric, Chairman of the Marine Parks Committee for the term 2013 - 2015, had retired from the Committee, the Chairman invited Mr Patrick LAI to present the Summary Report of MPC on behalf of Dr LI.

165/15 A member suggested that the second sentence of paragraph 2.3 be revised to “As shown in the survey, the Marine Parks was able to support an extra 25% of fish species when comparing with that found in the waters outside the Marine Parks” from “As shown in the survey, the Marine Parks were able to support as many as 25% of total fish species recorded in Hong Kong.”

[Post-meeting note: The revised version of Summary Report of the Marine Parks Committee was emailed to members on 19 November 2015.]

**IX. Country and Marine Parks Authority Progress Report**  
**(Working Paper WP/CMPB/18/2015)**

166/15 Mr Patrick LAI presented Working Paper WP/CMPB/18/2015 on Country and Marine Parks Authority Progress Report for the period from 1 May to 31 August 2015.

167/15 A member suggested that the AFCD should monitor the situation of illegal entry of bicycle on the road between Luk Keng (鹿頸) and Kuk Po (谷埔) as a lot of bicycles had been seen on the road on weekdays in the last two months.

168/15 Mr Alfred WONG responded that the AFCD would step up patrol along the road within country parks and take appropriate law enforcement action.

169/15 As regards a member's suggestion about opening up Sai Kung Man Yee Road (西貢萬宜路) for bicycling, Mr Patrick LAI answered that on different occasions members of the public and the Sai Kung District Council (SKDC) had suggested that whether it would be possible to open up Man Yee Road for riding bicycles. As Man Yee Road was a maintenance access of the WSD and was within the Sai Kung East Country Park, the SKDC, the AFCD, the WSD and the Transport Department had previously discussed the subject. Given that Man Yee Road was narrow and winding and was already being used by taxi, permitted vehicles and hikers, it would give rise to safety concern if it was opening up for cycling as well. Hence, relevant departments were cautious about opening up Man Yee Road for cycling for the time being.

170/15 Dr LEUNG Siu-fai, JP remarked that the AFCD took an open-minded approach to allowing people to ride bicycles in country parks. Should a place, track or path within country parks was identified to be suitable for riding bicycles without compromising the safety of other country park visitors, the AFCD, in consultation with relevant departments whenever necessary, would facilitate members of the public to cycle as far as possible. Having duly considered the concerns including separation of hikers and bikers wherever possible, terrain and management, some country park trails or areas had been designated as mountain bike trail/site.

171/15 A member was of the view that country park visitors should be encouraged to ride bicycle for excursion.

172/15 A member suggested that the road between Luk Keng and Lai Chi Wo (荔枝窩) should be opened up for leisure cycling.

173/15 A member remarked that residents in Tung Ping Chau (東平洲) reflected that they wished to enhance their involvement with the activities of the Hong Kong Global Geopark of China (HKGP). He enquired about whether the Authority would undertake improvement



programmes to enhance engagement with Tung Ping Chau residents after the HKGP had successfully passed revalidation.

174/15 Dr LEUNG Siu-fai, JP responded that the Authority made every endeavour to enhance engagement with Tung Ping Chau residents with a view to soliciting their support for sustainable development of the HKGP. Recently, the Authority reviewed its strategy and discussed with local residents how the environment and economy of the local communities could be improved through partnership projects and capacity building, for example, utilities supply, provision of tourist facilities, local participation in geo tours, and establishment of a geoheritage centre.

#### **X. Annual Field Visit**

175/15 Ms Y N NGAR briefed members on the tentative itinerary for the Annual Field Visit which was scheduled for 16 December 2015 (Wednesday). She said that the Secretary would issue a letter inviting members to confirm their attendance for the visit.

[Post-meeting note: On 31 October 2015, the Secretary had invited members to confirm their attendance for the visit and the Annual Field Visit was conducted as scheduled.]

#### **XI. Any Other Business**

##### **(a) A Letter from Hong Kong Bird Watching Society**

176/15 The Chairman informed members that he received a letter of 18 September 2015 from the Hong Kong Bird Watching Society (HKBWS), along with nine other organisations, to request the Board to discuss the proposal to designate Poi To Islands as a country park at the next Board meeting. A copy of the letter had been forwarded to the AFCD and was also tabled for members' reference.

177/15 The Chairman invited members to declare any potential conflict of interests. Both Dr MAN Chi-sum, JP and Ms WONG Pik-yan, Nicole declared that his organisation Green Power and her organisation WWF was one of the nine organisations respectively.

178/15 Mr Patrick LAI remarked that the Board Secretary, having consulted the Chairman, had sent a reply to the HKBWS on 19 October 2015. The reply suggested that it would be more appropriate to discuss the proposal in the CPC first and the HKBWS replied that they noted the suggestion.

(b) Any Other Business

179/15 In reply to a member's enquiry about remedial measures on peeling off of "Devil's Fist" (「鬼手」) in Wong Chuk Kok Tsui (黃竹角咀), Mr Patrick LAI said that country park staff had inspected "Devil's Fist" recently and assessed that the peeling-off of "Devil's Fist" was due to natural weathering. The AFCD had increased the patrols and put up notices to remind people not to climb on "Devil's Fist" for safety reason and preservation of this geological feature.

**XII. Date of Next Meeting**

180/15 The Chairman informed members that they would be informed of the date of next meeting in due course.

181/15 The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

– End –