

**Country and Marine Parks Board (CMPB)**  
**Confirmed Minutes of the 74<sup>th</sup> Meeting**

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Date : 26 February 2021 (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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**PRESENT**

**Chairman**

Professor LING Kar-kan, SBS

**Members**

Dr CHEUNG Ting-on Lewis

Dr CHUI Pui-yi, Apple

Dr LAU Tai-wai, David

Dr LEE Nam-yuk, Amelia, MH

Mr LEE Yee-keung, Charles

Professor LEUNG Mei-yee, Kenneth, JP

Professor NG Sai-leung

Mr SO Kwok-yin, Ken

Ms WONG Pik-yan, Nicole

Ms YIP Yan-yan

Mr YU Hon-kwan, MH, JP

Dr LEUNG Siu-fai, JP

Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Mr LAI Kin-ming, Mickey

Deputy Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation  
(Acting)

Ms Bella MUI	Assistant Director (Nature Conservation), Environmental Protection Department (EPD)
Ms Eugenia CHUNG, JP	Assistant Director of Home Affairs (2), Home Affairs Department
Ms CHAN Suet-ching, Angela	Assistant Director of Lands (Specialist 2), Lands Department
Mr LAI Chi-tung, JP	Assistant Director of Marine (Port Control), Marine Department
Mr YIP Chi-kwai, Tom	Assistant Director of Planning (New Territories), Planning Department
Mr MA Hon-wing, Wilson	Assistant Director of Water Supplies (Development) (Acting), Water Supplies Department

Secretary

Ms Phyllis CHAN	Assistant Secretary (Boards)1, AFCD
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**IN ATTENDANCE**

Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Dr Jackie YIP	Assistant Director (Country and Marine Parks) (Acting)
Mr Franco NG	Senior Country Parks Officer (Management 1)
Ms Y N NGAR	Senior Country Parks Officer (Management 2)
Mr Alfred WONG	Senior Country Parks Officer (Ranger Services 1)
Ms Cynthia CHAN	Senior Country Parks Officer (Planning and Regulations)
Ms Louise LI	Senior Marine Parks Officer
Mr Alan CHAN	Senior Marine Parks Officer (Special Duties)
Dr CHAU Ngai-lung	Country Parks Ranger Services Officer (North-West)

Dr Ivan CHAN

Marine Parks Officer (Development) 2

Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD)

Mr CHEUNG Wing-keung, Wicky      Chief Leisure Manager (Management)

For Agenda Item III only

Mott MacDonald Hong Kong Limited

Mr Eric M K CHING      Head of Advisory

Ms Julia W Y CHAN      Technical Director

Ms Eugenne Y C YUEN      Environmental Consultant

For Agenda Item IV only

Department of Science and Environmental Studies, The Education University of Hong Kong

Dr LI Wai-chin      Associate Professor

Ms TANG Pui-yi      Research Assistant

**ABSENT WITH APOLOGIES**

Mr CHAN Ka-kui, SBS, JP

Ms CHAN Po-kam, Beatrice

Mr CHEUNG Siu-keung, MH

Professor HE Shen-jing

Professor HUI Cheuk-kuen Desmond

Ms KIU Kin-yan, Judy

Dr TANG Chin-cheung

Mr LUK Chi-kwong

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

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

1/21 The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting, in particular the following persons who were attending the meeting for the first time:-

- Dr CHUI Pui-yi, Apple;
- Mr LAI Kin-ming, Mickey, Deputy Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation (Acting);
- Dr Jackie YIP, Assistant Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation (Country and Marine Parks) (Acting); and
- Mr MA Hon-wing, Wilson, Assistant Director of Water Supplies (Development) (Acting)

The Chairman also thanked Dr SO Ping-man, JP, the former Deputy Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation, and Mr Patrick LAI, the former Assistant Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation (Country and Marine Parks), for their contributions to the Board in the past years.

2/21 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.

3/21 The Chairman informed members that in view of the latest situation of COVID-19, the meeting was open to the media only so as to reduce social contact and the risk of community transmission. Besides, a special seating arrangement was made in this meeting to maintain suitable distance among attendees.

## AGENDA ITEMS

### **I. Confirmation of Minutes of the 73<sup>rd</sup> Meeting held on 23 October 2020**

4/21 The minutes of the 73<sup>rd</sup> meeting held on 23 October 2020 were confirmed without amendments.

### **II. Matters Arising**

(a) Planning Study on Setting Up a Visitor Hub at Pak Tam Chung, Sai Kung – Inception Phase (Para. 53/20)

5/21 Mr Alfred WONG reported that in the Country Parks Committee (CPC) meeting held on 13 November 2020, CPC members had been briefed on the progress of the planning study and consulted on the proposed traffic improvement measures and the recommended schematic plan of the future visitor hub at Pak Tam Chung. He said that after collecting the comments of CPC members, AFCD had discussed the ideas further with the Architectural Services Department and Tourism Commission, and the Department was currently preparing a brief to define the project scope.

(b) Pier Improvement Projects at Lai Chi Wo and Tung Ping Chau (Para. 80/20 to 87/20)

6/21 Ms Louise LI reported that in the last CMPB meeting held on 23 October 2020, the Civil Engineering and Development Department (CEDD) had consulted CMPB on the pier improvement projects at Lai Chi Wo and Tung Ping Chau and received support of the Board in principle. The environmental impact assessment report of the study on the pier improvement projects was approved with conditions by the Environmental Protection Department on 29 December 2020, and the Environmental Permits (EPs) were granted to CEDD for the two pier improvement projects on 19 February 2021. According to CEDD, they were conducting a detailed design of the works in accordance with the EPs and it was estimated that the improvement works would commence in the third quarter of 2023.

(c) Annual Field Visit 2020 (Para. 92/20)

7/21 Mr Alan CHAN reported that the CMPB Annual Field Visit was originally scheduled for 29 December 2020. The Board Secretary notified members on 17 December

2020 that in view of the local epidemic situation, the Annual Field Visit was postponed until further notice. Mr CHAN said that considering the continued prohibition on group gatherings in public places, the CMPB Annual Field Visit was suggested to be put on hold. AFCD would continue to observe the latest development of COVID-19 and the social distancing measures in Hong Kong and inform members of any updated arrangements of the Annual Field Visit through the Board Secretary.

### **III. Consultancy Study on Enhancement of the Recreation and Education Potential of Hoi Ha Wan Marine Park – Major findings and recommendations (Working Paper: WP/CMPB/1/2021)**

8/21 The Chairman reminded members to declare if there were any potential conflicts of interest in the matter to be discussed under this agenda item. Ms WONG Pik-yan, Nicole declared that WWF-HK's The Jockey Club HSBC WWF Hong Kong Hoi Ha Marine Life Centre (hereinafter referred to as "Hoi Ha Marine Life Centre") was located within the study area. Dr CHEUNG Ting-on Lewis declared that he worked in collaboration with Mott MacDonald Hong Kong Limited on other projects. The Chairman agreed that both members could continue to participate in the meeting and the discussion of this item.

9/21 The Chairman invited and welcomed the representatives of Mott MacDonald Hong Kong Limited to the meeting.

10/21 Dr Ivan CHAN introduced the background and progress of the consultancy study on enhancement of the recreation and education potential of Hoi Ha Wan Marine Park (the Study) (Working Paper WP/CMPB/1/2021). After that, with the aid of a PowerPoint presentation, Ms Julia W Y CHAN briefed members on the study approach, major findings of the stakeholder engagement workshop and meetings, and recommendations of the Study.

11/21 A member pointed out that Hoi Ha Wan's soft shore was among the beaches with the highest level of biodiversity in Hong Kong. He suggested covering this information in the educational activities to enhance public understanding of the ecological importance of Hoi Ha Wan. Besides, he considered it important for the educational activities to emphasise quality rather than quantity. He suggested that the Hoi Ha Marine Life Centre and Hoi Ha Visitor Centre (HHVC) could cooperate in the organisation of educational activities and engage the local villagers in those activities. Moreover, the member remarked that the peak season in Hoi Ha was summer. AFCD should put some thought into how to attract visitors to come to Hoi Ha

in winter so that the number of visitors could spread more evenly across the year. He also recommended that apart from enhancing Lo Tsai Shek, AFCD should identify other potential viewing points for spreading visitors across the whole area. To this end, AFCD could consider planting suitable ornamental trees that would flower or change colour as the seasons changed.

12/21 A member remarked that to conserve the rich biodiversity of Hoi Ha Wan, there needed to be measures in place to manage visitor behaviour. He also commented that collaboration with the Country Parks Division of AFCD would be needed for the proposed land-based activities. Another member concurred with this view and advised that more frequent patrols were needed in Hoi Ha Wan during the breeding season of starfish to prevent human disturbance to the species.

13/21 A member noted that the Study recommended some recreational activities, including guided tours, kayaking and diving. She suggested that the sites and trails for these recreational activities could rotate every few years so as to mitigate the pressure on a specific site or trail and better protect the environment. It would also offer novel experiences to visitors. Regarding the educational aspect, she recommended that the HHVC could introduce the marine park network in the north-eastern waters of Hong Kong to the public. It could also organise citizen science programmes in cooperation with the Hoi Ha Marine Life Centre. She advised that the two centres should closely cooperate in the enhancement of recreation and education services in Hoi Ha Wan Marine Park (HHWMP) and its surrounding areas and try to avoid duplicating the efforts.

14/21 Concerning visitor management, a member advised that AFCD should consider demarcating areas for the recommended recreational and educational activities and taking appropriate measures to manage visitor behaviour, for example, restricting activities in ecologically sensitive areas and requiring that recreational activities be led by approved tour guides. He considered that these measures were important for the protection of the ecologically sensitive areas.

15/21 A member remarked that growing emphasis was placed on arts in the present-day education. Instead of “STEM”, which represented science, technology, engineering and mathematics, “STEAM”, which represented “STEM” plus arts, was getting more popular around the world. He recommended taking arts into consideration when planning for educational activities.

16/21 A member noted from the presentation that 11 questionnaire surveys were conducted with the local community and 136 questionnaire surveys with marine park visitors. He considered that the sample size of the questionnaire surveys could be larger. Besides, he considered that the opinions of teachers on the proposed educational services were particularly crucial and they should be further consulted to ensure the user-friendliness of future programme(s). Therefore, he suggested the study team to examine the profile of the respondents and see if there were any responses from teachers for consideration. The member also suggested AFCD to conduct questionnaire surveys on a regular basis to collect the opinions of the stakeholders and visitors continuously.

17/21 In response to the above comments and suggestions, Ms Julia W Y CHAN indicated that the proposed activities would be spread across the year. For example, the proposed Hoi Ha Festival was recommended to be held in the low season. Besides, the study team was exploring with LCSD on the opportunity of organising trainings for coaches of water sports activities in the low season. Those trainings would teach the coaches about the marine ecology and conservation value of Hoi Ha Wan and prepare them to lead the activities and manage visitor behaviours. To enhance the safety of visitors participating in water sports activities in Hoi Ha Wan, AFCD was recommended to engage The Hong Kong Life Saving Society or other relevant organisations, to assist in the patrols and to provide lifeguard services, particularly in the peak season when more people would participate in water-based activities. Moreover, AFCD was recommended to conduct a visitor management study to collect information about the current visitor number, flow and experiences and formulate a comprehensive visitor management plan. The study could also explore the possibility of implementing different management measures in different zones as suggested by a member.

18/21 Regarding the cooperation with WWF-HK, Ms CHAN said that it was hoped that the activities provided by the HHVC and WWF-HK's Hoi Ha Marine Life Centre could complement each other in terms of educational services. The details were under discussion with WWF-HK. Regarding the suggestion of incorporating arts into the activities, she remarked that AFCD could consider holding the prize presentation ceremonies of the arts-related competitions organised by AFCD or collaborating organisations which shared the same vision in the proposed Hoi Ha Festival, such as drawing and photo competitions that promoted the importance of marine conservation. Ms CHAN thanked a member's comment on the questionnaire surveys. She indicated that the Study recommended a phased implementation plan consisting of a one-year site trial. During the trial period, the implementation programme



would be reviewed and visitor opinions would be collected through questionnaire surveys with people of different backgrounds, including the education sector, for determining the strategy for long-term implementation.

19/21 The Chairman appreciated that the Study's recommendations focused on the enhancement of the quality of recreational and educational services instead of increasing the number of visitors to Hoi Ha. He advised that the final report of the Study should emphasise this principle. Among the recommendations, he was particularly concerned about the possible impact of the Hoi Ha Festival if it was not managed properly. He pointed out that like other festivals, the proposed Hoi Ha Festival would most likely attract many people and hence generate enormous pressure on the environment. He suggested that instead of a promotional event, the festival could be a clean-up event where volunteers were mobilised to put conservation of Hoi Ha into action. He also advised that crowd control was necessary no matter what events were to be held during the festival. Moreover, the Chairman agreed with a member's opinion that the quality of the educational activities should be emphasised rather than quantity. He considered that Hoi Ha was a great place for field trips and enriching students' learning experience outside the classroom.

20/21 As members made no further enquiries and comments, the Chairman thanked the representatives of Mott MacDonald Hong Kong Limited for attending the meeting.

(The representatives of Mott MacDonald Hong Kong Limited left the meeting at this juncture.)

21/21 A member was pleased to know from the Working Paper that fibre-based network was expected to be extended to Hoi Ha in the fourth quarter of 2021. Besides, she agreed with other members that the quality of educational services was very important. She suggested that AFCD should set the time and priorities of school visits, so that Hoi Ha would not become overly crowded. Mr Alan CHAN responded that telecommunication network coverage in most of the Hoi Ha areas had been very poor. The improvement of the telecommunication network in the near future would not only facilitate the provision of information services to visitors but also the management of the marine park. For example, it might make possible the use of surveillance systems to strengthen law enforcement in the area.

22/21 Referring to the Study's suggestion of advertising photography hotspots at HHVC, a member recommended three photography hotspots for AFCD's consideration. They were Tai

Tan Country Trail, Kau Tau Shek and Wan Tsai Peninsula. Concerning Tai Tan Country Trail, he said that AFCD should investigate whether tide levels would affect access to the villages around the mangroves and consider improving the access as necessary. He also advised AFCD to prune the groves in front of Kau Tau Shek regularly and improve the condition of the nearby trails. Besides, he said that the view from Kau Tau Shek was beautiful, especially in May and June when the yellow flowers of Taiwan Acacia (*Acacia confusa*) in Wan Tsai Peninsula bloomed.

23/21 In response to the comment on the sample size of the visitor questionnaire surveys, Dr Ivan CHAN indicated that in addition to the questionnaire surveys, meetings were held with the key stakeholders, including Hoi Ha village representatives, operators, non-governmental organisations and academia, to collect their views at the initial stage of the Study. Besides, around 30 people from different stakeholder groups participated in the stakeholder engagement workshop in June 2020 and discussed the proposals.

24/21 In response to the Chairman's enquiry about the patrol of HHWMP, Ms Louise LI indicated that AFCD maintained sea or land patrols on daily basis. The patrol team would monitor the activities within the marine park and combat any unauthorised activities. Apart from law enforcement, the patrol team would also provide advice to visitors on the protection of the marine environment.

25/21 The Chairman commended the Study for looking into both land and sea based activities and taking an integrated approach to the planning. He concurred with a member's suggestion of identifying more scenic spots to spread visitors across the whole Hoi Ha area. Besides, he noted AFCD's response to a member's comment on the sample size of the visitor questionnaire surveys and he advised that AFCD could see whether the responses so-collected were sufficient and consider whether extra questionnaire surveys were needed. Moreover, the Chairman expressed concern about the sewage treatment capacity of Hoi Ha. As the number of visitors would probably increase after the enhancement of visitor services, it would inevitably induce pressure on the sewage collection and treatment facilities there. In view of the long lead time for construction of sewage infrastructure, he invited EPD to follow up this matter closely and timely.

26/21 Dr Jackie YIP thanked the Chairman and members for their comments. She said that the Study, which looked into both land and sea based activities, was forward-looking. As

mentioned by the study team, a one-year site trial would be carried out this year and then the implementation programme would be reviewed. In addition, a visitor management study would be conducted. The progress of these actions would be reported to CMPB at a suitable juncture.

#### **IV. Curriculum-based Outdoor Learning Programmes in Country Parks (Working Paper: WP/CMPB/2/2021)**

27/21 The Chairman reminded members to declare if there were any potential conflicts of interest in the matter to be discussed under this agenda item. Dr CHEUNG Ting-on Lewis declared that he was involved in the development of the curriculum-based outdoor learning programmes. The Chairman agreed that the member could continue to participate in the meeting and the discussion of this item.

28/21 The Chairman invited and welcomed the representatives of Department of Science and Environmental Studies, The Education University of Hong Kong (EdUHK) to the meeting.

29/21 With the aid of a PowerPoint presentation, Dr CHAU Ngai-lung introduced the existing country parks school education programmes and the background of the consultancy study (the Study) of developing curriculum-based outdoor learning programmes in country parks for primary and secondary schools (Working Paper WP/CMPB/2/2021). After that, Dr LI Wai-chin of EdUHK briefed members on the aims of the Study and gave an overview of the 12 learning and teaching (L&T) packages, and Ms TANG Pui-yi of EdUHK took one of the L&T packages as example to illustrate the content in more detail.

30/21 A member appreciated the curriculum-based outdoor learning programmes which were in line with the actions of the Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan in terms of enhancement of education on nature conservation. He hoped that there would be development of outdoor learning programmes in marine parks and marine reserve in the next step. Regarding the content of the L&T packages, the member suggested that it should mention the interactions between living organisms and the environment and the relationship between the environment and biodiversity.

31/21 Another member agreed that the packages could cover more the topic of biodiversity. Besides, he asked for the number of the participants of AFCD's school visit programmes and other education activities.

32/21 A member enquired whether the content of the L&T packages and that of the lessons in the existing curriculum of primary and secondary education would overlap. He also enquired whether the programme would increase the homework load of students and affect their interest in learning.

33/21 A member noticed that the curriculum-based outdoor learning programmes stressed the cultivation of a positive attitude to nature. She enquired whether the students would be taught about hiking etiquette and the concept of "Leave No Trace". She considered that these are the most basic knowledge that students should learn since a young age.

34/21 A member enquired in what ways the design of the L&T packages could cater for diverse learning needs, such as students with special educational needs (SEN). Besides, she advised that AFCD and EdUHK's team needed to think about how to persuade teachers to use the L&T packages.

35/21 Two members took the view that the L&T packages, particularly those for primary schools, did not need to give students detailed knowledge of the subjects. Allowing them to spend time in the countryside to explore and connect with the nature would be good enough. Once the connection with the nature was established, the students would naturally be interested in learning more about the environment.

36/21 A member pointed out that the outdoor learning programmes might be affected by inclement weather. He suggested that the programmes should provide contingency plans for different adverse weather conditions. He also suggested that the locations of the outdoor learning programmes could include outlying islands and geosites.

37/21 Referring to the PowerPoint slides showing the content of an L&T package, a member noticed that the pre-trip materials contained aerial photos of a country park over a period of time to show the changes in the natural landscape. He suggested that the boundary of different types of vegetation should be clearly delineated on the aerial photos. The member also

asked whether the packages would be available to teachers free of charge and whether e-copies of the materials would be made available.

38/21 A member appreciated AFCD's initiative to develop curriculum-based outdoor learning programmes in country parks. She enquired whether these programmes would overlap with other outdoor learning programmes that were currently available in the market and what positioning strategy AFCD would adopt.

39/21 Dr LI noted members' comments. Regarding the content of the L&T packages, he said that it covered the relationship between biotic factors and abiotic factors. The packages also provided clear safety guidelines, including advice on the seasons and weather conditions suitable for that particular outdoor learning experience. Dr LI agreed with members that it was important for students to learn to appreciate the nature and care for the environment. He said that the study team would think about how to give more focus on that aspect in the outdoor learning programmes and would add hiking etiquette into the content as suggested by a member. Moreover, Dr LI said that they would make adaptations to the packages to cater for diverse learning needs. Regarding the positioning of the curriculum-based outdoor learning programmes, Dr LI elucidated that the programmes were designed to match with the subjects of General Studies, Science, Geography, Integrated Science and Biology in the existing curriculum of primary and secondary education in Hong Kong. The outdoor learning programmes that were currently available in the market were mostly one-off outdoor activity and most of them were not strongly linked to the curriculum. On the contrary, the outdoor learning programmes developed by the study team were curriculum-based and highly organised. The visits would be conducted during school hours and no extra class would be needed to teach the lesson already learnt in the visit. They would not cause extra homework load for students as well. The L&T packages would be available to teachers free of charge.

(Professor LEUNG Mei-yee, Kenneth, JP and Mr YU Hon-kwan, MH, JP left the meeting at this juncture.)

40/21 Mr Alfred WONG supplemented that the curriculum-based outdoor learning programmes responded to the recommendations of the "Consultancy Study on Enhancing the Recreation and Education Potential of Country Parks and Special Areas" in 2019 on strengthening the educational functions of country parks and special areas. There was a great demand for outdoor learning programmes in the society as the study team understood from the

Education Bureau (EDB) and the existing service providers. He indicated that the existing programmes in the market were mostly led by the service providers while the outdoor learning programmes developed by EdUHK aimed to provide sufficient guidelines and reference materials for school teachers to conduct the outdoor learning activity. Teachers' training would also be arranged for the implementation of the programmes. He concurred with members that helping students to cultivate a positive attitude towards the environment was an important objective of the outdoor learning programme. It was hoped that students would be influenced to protect the environment since a young age by the programme. He said that apart from the outdoor learning programmes, AFCD would also continue to promote hiking etiquette through various country parks education programmes. In answering a member's enquiry, Mr WONG said that the number of the participants of AFCD's school visit programmes and other education activities was included in the regular Country and Marine Parks Authority Progress Report.

41/21 The Chairman suggested adding locations on Lantau Island to cater for the need of the primary and secondary schools there. Besides, he hoped that the outdoor learning programmes should encourage the interaction between people and the nature and raise awareness on environmental protection, but should not be biased against all kinds of urban development and human interference. He hoped that the programmes would present a balanced view.

42/21 As members made no further enquiries and comments, the Chairman thanked the representatives of Department of Science and Environmental Studies, EdUHK for attending the meeting.

(The representatives of Department of Science and Environmental Studies, EdUHK left the meeting at this juncture.)

43/21 A member considered that if the L&T packages focused on the cultivation of a proper attitude towards the environment instead of the knowledge of the respective subjects, there should not be a problem for students with diverse learning needs.

44/21 A member who was a member of the study team responded that the L&T packages aimed to cater for not only students with learning difficulties but also students of different learning abilities. There was an experienced teacher in the study team to look at that matter and

make sure the packages could be used by students of different abilities. Concerning the implementation, he remarked that EDB would put the training courses of the curriculum-based outdoor learning programmes into the training calendar for teachers. Besides, EdUHK's Bachelor students in General Studies, Science and Geography would be taught to use the L&T packages, so that they could assist in the implementation when they were in placement schools and make use of the packages when they taught at schools after graduation. It was hoped that these efforts would promote the usage of the curriculum-based outdoor learning programmes and that the programmes would contribute to primary and secondary school education.

45/21 The Chairman invited AFCD to take note of members' comments.

**V. Summary Report of Country Parks Committee  
(Working Paper: WP/CMPB/3/2021)**

46/21 Professor NG Sai-leung, Chairman of CPC, briefed members on Working Paper WP/CMPB/3/2021, which provided members with a summary of the issues discussed at the CPC meeting held on 13 November 2020. Members noted the Report.

**VI. Summary Report of Marine Parks Committee  
(Working Paper: WP/CMPB/4/2021)**

47/21 As Professor LEUNG Mei-ye, Kenneth, JP, Chairman of the Marine Parks Committee (MPC) had left the meeting at an earlier time due to other commitments, Dr Jackie YIP briefed members on Working Paper WP/CMPB/4/2021, which provided members with a summary of the issues discussed at the MPC meeting held on 3 December 2020. Members noted the Report.

**VII. Country and Marine Parks Authority Progress Report  
(Working Paper: WP/CMPB/5/2021)**

48/21 Dr Jackie YIP briefed members on the Country and Marine Parks Authority Progress Report for the period from 1 September to 31 December 2020 (Working Paper: WP/CMPB/5/2021). She informed members that in light of the COVID-19 epidemic situation in Hong Kong, barbecue sites and campsites remained closed during the above-mentioned reporting period. Despite the rise in the number of visitors to country parks, the amount of litter collected during the four months period reduced by about 30% as compared to the same period in 2019, mainly due to the closure of barbecue sites and campsites. Country park visitor centres

were closed in the first half of September and in December 2020, and the school and public education programmes and most volunteer services were suspended. Moreover, she said that there was also a noticeable increase in the number of visitors to marine parks. Members noted the Report.

### **VIII. Any Other Business**

49/21 At the invitation of the Chairman, Dr LEUNG Siu-fai, JP briefed members on the 2021-22 Budget Speech delivered by the Financial Secretary concerning the Government's initiatives to enhance country park facilities. He remarked that the "Consultancy Study on Enhancing the Recreation and Education Potential of Country Parks and Special Areas" commissioned by AFCD, which was completed in 2019, had recommended a list of short, medium and long term enhancement proposals, and some of which were already in progress, such as the development of curriculum-based outdoor learning programmes as discussed in the previous agenda item. To take forward the enhancement proposals, the Budget Speech announced that \$500 million would be set aside to carry out enhancement works on facilities in country parks, such as building additional or improving the existing viewing platforms, providing treetop adventure and glamping sites, improving toilet facilities and barbeque and picnic sites, and revitalising some wartime relics by converting them into open museums. Meanwhile, \$55 million were earmarked for the Tourism Commission to work with AFCD to enhance ten hiking trails in country parks that had potential for tourism. AFCD would work with the relevant government departments and redeploy human resources to take the enhancement projects forward. The Department would report the progress to CMPB at suitable juncture.

50/21 The Chairman hoped that AFCD would make good use of the resources and commence the enhancement works on facilities in country parks as soon as possible. He believed that the works projects would create more employment opportunities for the society, which was very much needed at present. Moreover, the Chairman pointed out that many people flocked to the countryside for leisure experiences at weekends and during holidays. He suggested that AFCD and LCSD should work together to explore the possibility of planting ornamental local plant species, such as Sweet Gum (*Liquidambar formosana*) and Chinese New Year Flower (*Enkianthus quinqueflorus*), in urban parks and open spaces in the city to relieve the pressure on the countryside.

[Post-meeting note: LCSD advised that the department had also planted ornamental native plant species in urban parks such as Sweet Gum and Chinese New Year Flower at the Hong Kong



Zoological and Botanical Garden. Recently, LCSD further planted more Sweet Gum at Yuen Long Park with the aim to provide one more location for the appreciation of red leaves so as to relieve the pressure in the Tai Lam Country Park. LCSD would continue exploring the possibility to plant out ornamental native plant species in the existing venues and new projects as far as practicable. ]

**IX. Date of Next Meeting**

51/21 The Chairman informed members that the next meeting was tentatively scheduled for 7 May 2021 (Friday) at 9:30 a.m.

52/21 The meeting adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

– End –