

Country and Marine Parks Board (CMPB)
Confirmed Minutes of the 44th Meeting

Date : 15 January 2010 (Friday) File Ref.: AF CPA 01/1/0
Time : 2:30 p.m.
Venue : Room 701, Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD)
Headquarters

ATTENDANCE

Chairman

Prof. Nora TAM Fung-ye, J.P.

Members

Dr. Gary ADES

Prof. CHU Lee-man

Dr. LAW Chi-kwong, S.B.S., J.P.

Mrs. Tennessy LEE HUI Mei-sheung

Mr. LEUNG Wing-hang

Dr. Eric LI Shing-foon

Dr. LO Wing-lok, J. P.

Dr. YAU Wing-kwong

Mr. Alan WONG Chi-kong, J.P. Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Dr. LEUNG Siu-fai Deputy Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and
Conservation (Acting)

Mr. Andrew TSANG Yue-tung, J.P. Assistant Director of Home Affairs (2)

Ms. Karen CHAN Pui-ye Assistant Director of Lands (Estate Management)

Mr. Wilson SO Ying-leung Assistant Director of Planning (New Territories)

Secretary

Ms. Helen TAM Ho-ying

Assistant Secretary (Boards) 1, AFCD

IN ATTENDANCE

Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Mr. Joseph SHAM

Assistant Director (Country and Marine Parks)

Mr. LEUNG Chi-hong

Senior Country Parks Officer/South-east

Mr. Edward WONG Cheuk-kee

Senior Marine Parks Officer

Mr. Edmond LAM Yiu-fong

Senior Country Parks Officer/Ranger Services

Mr. Alan CHAN Lai-koon

Senior Marine Conservation Officer/East

Mr. Dennis MOK

Country Parks Officer/Sai Kung

Mr. Franco NG Kwok-yan

Country Parks Officer/North

Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD)

Mr. Alfred CHOW Chi-man

Chief Leisure Manager (New Territories East)

Water Supplies Department (WSD)

Mr. Martin TONG Woon-ming

Senior Engineer/Planning 2

For Agenda Item III only

The Hong Kong Federation of Youth Groups (HKFYG)

Mr. WAN Man-yee

Council Member, HKFYG

Dr. Rosanna WONG

Executive Director, HKFYG

Ms. Yolanda CHIU

Deputy Executive Director, HKFYG

Mr. Ronald CHU

Assistant Unit in Charge of HKFYG Jockey Club
Outdoor Training Camp

Mr. Greg TSE

Engineer, HKFYG

Ateliers VIII Architects Limited

Mr. K. Y. KUNG

Mr. Dennis LEUNG

Ecosystems Limited

Ms. YAU Mee-ling

Stephen CHENG Consulting Engineers Limited

Mr. Tony AU

ABSENT WITH APOLOGIES

Ms. Jasminia Kristine CHEUNG

Ms. Betty HO Siu-fong

Prof. Paul LAM Kwan-sing, J.P.

Mr. LI Yiu-ban, B. B. S., J.P.

Mr. Young NG Chun-yeong

Hon WONG Yung-kan, S. B. S., J.P.

Mr. Bobby NG Mang-tung Assistant Director of Water Supplies (Development)

Mr. Donald CHOY Chi-mum Assistant Director of Leisure and Cultural Services
(Leisure Services) 3

Mr. LI Yuk-kwong Assistant Director of Marine (Port Control)

OPENING REMARKS BY THE CHAIRMAN

01/10 The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

02/10 The Chairman informed members that, as an established practice, to facilitate the taking of meeting minutes, sound recording would be made during the meeting. The audio records would be destroyed after the meeting minutes were confirmed.

AGENDA ITEMS

I. Confirmation of Minutes of the Last Meeting held on 10 September 2009

03/10 The minutes of the last meeting held on 10 September 2009 were confirmed without amendments.

II. Matters Arising from the Last Meeting

(a) Annual Field Visit (Para. 82/09)

04/10 Mr. Joseph SHAM reported that the annual field visit had taken place on 26 November 2009. The participants had visited the Rock Academy at the Lions Nature Education Centre and Pak Tam Chung Management Centre, and were briefed on the education work of the Hong Kong National Geopark and the management of the country parks. Members had also taken a boat tour to the Sharp Island and Jin Island, and went to the High Island Geo-Area to inspect the hexagonal columns and other geological features.

05/10 A report on the field visit had been distributed to members for reference. Photographs taken on the field visit were circulated at the meeting.

III. Progress Report on the Phase III Redevelopment of HKFYG Jockey Club Sai Kung Outdoor Training Camp (Working Paper: WP/CMPB/1/2010)

06/10 Mr. Dennis MOK briefed members on Working Paper WP/CMPB/1/2010 and the background of the proposal. He informed members that the HKFYG Jockey Club Sai Kung Outdoor Training Camp (the Camp) had been in operation since 1965. In 2006, the HKFYG proposed an extension which would affect 0.6 hectare of the Sai Kung West Country Park. The Country Parks Committee (CPC) was consulted on the proposal in December 2006 and members considered it acceptable in principle, subject to an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) study to be submitted to the Board for deliberation. HKFYG had recently obtained funding for the project and conducted an ecological assessment. They would like to seek members' approval for the project before proceeding further.

07/10 Mr. Dennis MOK went on to brief members of the Authority's view on the proposal. The Authority was of the view that the ecological assessment submitted by HKFYG was only based on preliminary findings, and they should provide a more detailed environmental impact assessment, especially its potential impacts on the marine ecological habitat and species due to the proposed construction works at the estuary of the stream, and the visual impact of the buildings. He also highlighted that as the project was partly within the Sai Kung West Country Park and involved reclamation works, the proposal constituted a designated project under the Environmental Impact Assessment Ordinance (EIAO). Mr. MOK went on to say that the project would also be subject to all the statutory requirements under the Foreshore and Sea-bed (Reclamations) Ordinance (Cap. 127) before its commencement.

08/10 A member said that the proposal was put forward at a CPC meeting in 2006. He enquired if the Board could overturn CPC's decision after hearing HKFYG's presentation.

09/10 The Chairman advised that in 2006, the proposal was accepted in principle, subject to an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) study to be submitted to the Board. As a result, members could consider if HKFYG's proposal would be endorsed based on its ecological assessment.

10/10 Mr. Joseph SHAM supplemented that apart from ecological assessment, a comprehensive EIA should include assessments on transportation and visual impacts, etc. Besides, members should also consider whether the proposal would affect the interests of country parks users.

11/10 The Chairman welcomed the following persons to attend the meeting:

The Hong Kong Federation of Youth Groups (HKFYG)

Mr. WAN Man-yee	Council Member, HKFYG
Dr. Rosanna WONG	Executive Director, HKFYG
Ms. Yolanda CHIU	Deputy Executive Director, HKFYG
Mr. Ronald CHU	Assistant Unit in Charge of HKFYG Jockey Club Outdoor Training Camp
Mr. Greg TSE	Engineer, HKFYG

Ateliers VIII Architects Limited

Mr. K. Y. KUNG
Mr. Dennis LEUNG

Ecosystems Limited

Ms. YAU Mee-ling

Stephen CHENG Consulting Engineers Limited

Mr. Tony AU

12/10 Dr. Rosanna WONG briefed members on the project. She highlighted that they would minimize the ecological impacts on the environment by undertaking mitigation measures, such as compensatory planting, sewage treatment and regular environmental monitoring, to ensure the project would meet the environmental standard. An ecological assessment outlining the ecological and environmental impacts of the project was also circulated for members' information. She went on to say that it was an educational and recreational project that did not involve any dredging and reclamation. As advised by Environmental Protection Department (EPD), they were not required to conduct a full EIA study under the EIAO should the education and recreational project be approved by the Country and Marine Parks Authority. Subject to the Board's agreement, they would proceed to put forward the project and submit the building plan to the relevant departments.

13/10 Mr. WAN Man-ye supplemented that they had developed a set of Good Site Practices for the Camp's construction works in the Phase II development project. It was operated smoothly and helped minimize the environmental impacts. Similar mitigation work would also be implemented to minimize the impacts on the environment in the Phase III development. Besides, he said that Phase II of the Camp would be opened to the public when the Phase III development was in progress, and the project would not affect the Camp's operation.

14/10 A member asked why HKFYG did not conduct an EIA study in accordance with the EIAO. He considered that if a completed EIA report was submitted to the Board, it could facilitate the Board to consider their proposal.

15/10 Mr. WAN Man-ye replied that they had already conducted several ecological assessments and consulted EPD on their proposal. EPD informed members that their project could be exempted from the EIAO; so, they would like to obtain the Board's agreement on the project before proceeding further. They considered that the existing studies and surveys had already provided sufficient information for the Board's consideration.

16/10 Dr. Rosanna WONG emphasized that it was an educational and recreational project that could be granted exemption subject to the agreement of CMPB. Taking EPD's advice, they were given an impression that they did not need to follow the full EIAO procedures so as to reduce costs and time for processing the statutory procedures.

17/10 A member enquired about the number of trees lost due to the project and asked if HKFYG would plant new trees to compensate the loss.

18/10 Ms. YAU Mee-ling replied that they were conducting a Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) and Tree Assessment. After the assessments, they would formulate a detailed compensatory planting proposal, and outline the actual number of trees lost and the scale of compensatory planting. She informed members that according to their preliminary findings, 0.37 hectare of mixed woodland would be affected due to the project. Considering that there were some species of high conservation interests found in the area, they would replant some of the trees. Indeed, the loss of native trees and shrub would be compensated by planting new trees within the country park area near the Camp.

(Ms. Karen CHAN attended the meeting at this juncture.)

19/10 Knowing that there were an increasing number of people visiting Sai Kung Country Park in recent years, a member asked if HKFYG had looked into the transportation impacts of the expansion of the Camp. He also pointed out that according to the layout plan provided by HKFYG, a piece of land would be identified as "Proposed Reclaimed Area". He enquired whether there would be any reclamation works at the river front. The member also suggested that HKFYG could carry out vertical greening for both Phases II and III developments to minimize the visual impacts.

20/10 Mr. WAN Man-ye said that they had slightly modified their proposal and there would be no reclamation works in the project. He also suggested the following amendments to the progress report:-

To delete the following sentence in 2nd paragraph of page 4 in Appendix 3 to the Working Paper WP/CMPB/1/2010:-

“For the soft substrate in Area B, the mud will be removed by land-based excavator during low tide. The subsequent filling will also be scheduled to be performed during low tide.”

21/10 Mr. WAN added that they had not conducted any traffic impact assessment for the project.

22/10 Mr. Joseph SHAM supplemented that according to the Foreshore and Sea-bed (Reclamations) Ordinance (Cap. 127), reclamation referred to any works over and upon any foreshore and seabed. In HKFYG’s proposal, the construction of platform deck would involve reclamation as its piles touched the seabed. HKFYG therefore should seek Lands Departments’ advice and follow the statutory procedures provided by Cap. 127.

23/10 Mr. WAN Man-ye replied that they would arrange gazettal of the reclamation works in accordance with the Ordinance.

24/10 Regarding the visual impacts of the buildings, Dr. Rosanna WONG said that the campsite was kept green and lush, and they would also carry out vertical and roof greening to help the buildings better blend in with the surrounding environment and minimize the visual impacts.

25/10 A member asked why there was only 0.4 hectare of compensatory planting against the loss of 0.5 hectare of plantation and mixed woodlands. He also enquired whether the ecological assessment had looked into the potential impacts of the project on the nocturnal animals.

26/10 Ms. YAU Mee-ling replied that they only addressed the loss of mixed woodland (with higher conservation value) for compensatory planting. She added that they were conducting a tree assessment and would submit a detailed compensatory planting plan accordingly. She also said that their assessment had covered the nocturnal animals.

27/10 A member noted that the ecological survey had only covered very limited species of animals and insects, like four bird species and two butterfly species. He suggested that HKFYG should conduct a biodiversity survey to acquire more information on the ecology of the concerned area.

28/10 A member enquired about the utilization rate of the Camp. He also expressed his worries over whether the project and construction works would affect the interests of the country parks users.

29/10 Dr. LEUNG Siu-fai enquired whether the project would have adverse impacts on the wetland and mangroves.

30/10 Mr. Ronald CHU said that around 90,000 people visited the Camp each year. Amongst them, about 50,000 visitors would reside for one night (around 22 hours) and the other 40,000 would join day camp and stay at the site for some 7 hours.

31/10 Ms. YAU Mee-ling replied that in their ecological assessment, they had recorded various species of animals and insects found in the area. Among them, four bird species and two butterfly species were highlighted in the progress report due to their high conservation interest. Other species, most of what were common and widespread, were included in the Ecological Assessment Report submitted to AFCD although not mentioned in the progress report. She

added that as 0.01 hectare of mangrove would be lost due to the project, same size of mangrove/sandflat would be planted at the estuary of the stream to compensate the loss.

32/10 Dr. Rosanna WONG said that as there were very few hikers visiting the nearby hiking trails, the impacts on the country park users was considered minimal.

33/10 Mr. Ronald CHU supplemented that there was a barbecue site near the Camp. Indeed, it was found that no public had visited the site in the past few months, and it was not a popular picnic / barbecue site in the country park.

34/10 Mr. Alan WONG, J.P. in principle supported the project. Yet, he considered that it was imperative to minimize the impacts of the projects on the environment and HKFYG was advised to follow the EIAO procedures which would provide an open and transparent mechanism to invite and consider views from the general public on the project.

35/10 The Chairman enquired if HKFYG would further conduct any ecological assessments and their difficulties in conducting an EIA study in compliance with the EIAO. She also opined that as the proposed platform deck was built upon soft substrate, the piling works might involve filling that, to a certain extent, affected the water quality.

36/10 Ms. YAU Mee-ling replied that the existing ecological assessment mainly focused on the land area. They planned to conduct more surveys to acquire information for the inter-tidal area and looked into the potential impacts on the marine environment and ecology. She added that under the EIAO, the required study area was much bigger than the existing one that covered 500m away from the Camp.

37/10 Mr. Tony AU said that in light of the soft substrate, they had designed a “Reinforced Concrete Deck” that would obviate the need for dredging and reclamation so as to protect the marine environment. He added that the deck would be supported by small piles. Besides, by using pile caps, no filling works was required.

38/10 A member supported the expansion of the Camp. He considered that it could benefit more teenagers. Yet, he advised that HKFYG should go through all necessary statutory procedures, including the EIAO, so as to respond to the community’s aspirations. It could also help the project run more smoothly.

39/10 The Chairman concurred with the member and advised HKFYG to conduct an EIA in compliance with the EIAO.

40/10 Mr. Alan WONG, J.P. said that taking reference to the SENT Landfill issue, they learnt that the Hong Kong community at large and the Sai Kung residents in particular were much concerned about conservation issues. If HKFYG project were to bypass any statutory procedures, it might trigger strong objections.

41/10 Mr. Tony AU circulated two graphs showing the structure of the proposed reinforced concrete deck, and explained that the piles would be built on bedrock to support the deck, and the design therefore would have no impact on the soft substrate.

42/10 Mr. Edward WONG supplemented that the WWF’s Hoi Ha Marine Life Centre also adopted a similar piling method to build the platform deck, involving no dredging works. But the project was still required to be gazetted under the Foreshore and Sea-bed (Reclamations) Ordinance (Cap. 127). Taking it as a reference, HKFYG might need to arrange gazettal of the works according to Cap. 127.

43/10 A member appreciated that the pilling method would not bring significant adverse impacts to the water quality and marine environment. Yet, he was concerned that the pile caps laid on the seabed might touch the seabed and required the gazettal procedures. He considered that the Building Department would look into the details of the piling works when HKFYG submitted their building plan.

44/10 Dr. Rosanna WONG said that the project was for the interests of the teenagers. She considered that the Board could support the proposal and the ecological assessment, which could facilitate the project to proceed further.

(Representatives from HKFYG and project consultants left the meeting at this juncture.)

45/10 A member opined that the ecological assessment submitted by HKFYG was not sufficient or comprehensive, and it was advisable to conduct a more detailed EIA study to further look into the impacts on mangrove, seabed and the country park. He also expressed his worries over the expansion of the Camp in the future.

46/10 The Chairman said that the Camp was built in 1965 before any county park was established. During the discussion in Phase II in 1998, the Board did not enquire about its future expansion plan.

47/10 A member noted that the campsite was surrounded by hill, and it was not anticipated that the Camp could be further expanded. Besides, he considered that the concerned area was not a popular site for hikers, and the impacts on country park users were limited. Yet, he agreed with members that HKFYG should pay close attention to the likely impacts of the project on mangrove and ecosystem, and conduct a comprehensive EIA study in accordance with the EIAO.

48/10 Mr. LEUNG Chi-hong informed members that they had discussed with HKFYG before they first submitted their Phase III proposal to CPC in 2006. They originally planned to construct a floating bridge across the stream to the opposite riverbank. However, this proposal was withdrawn upon their advice to minimize the scale of the expansion.

49/10 A member remarked that the expansion of the Camp would utilize public land and resources, and it might also infringe the interests and enjoyment of the country parks users. He concurred with other members that HKFYG should conduct a comprehensive EIA study and consulted the public in accordance with the EIAO procedures.

50/10 The Chairman said that the Board in principle supported the project, yet, HKFYG should submit a detailed EIA report, including Traffic Impact Assessment and Visual Impact Assessment, etc., to the Board for further deliberation. On the other hand, HKFYG should also inform the Board whether they would further expand the Camp in the future.

51/10 A member opined that conservation matters received increasing public attention in recent years. Indeed, the ecological assessment submitted by HKFYG failed to fulfil public expectation and could not address members' concern.

52/10 In reply to a member's enquiry on compensatory planting, Mr. LEUNG Chi-hong said that the number of trees for compensatory planting should normally be greater than the number of trees being felled down. It was because trees felled down were usually mature ones while trees planted for compensation were young ones.

53/10 A member said that the Board or the Authority should establish a principle on compensatory planting. If any trees lost in the country parks due to construction works, the project proponents should plant new trees for compensation regardless of their ecological value. He explained that felling trees would affect not only the vegetation, but also the ecosystem of the nearby area.

(Mr. Andrew TSANG Tue-tung, J.P. left the meeting at this juncture.)

54/10 A member supported the principle of requesting the project proponent to plant more trees so as to compensate the felling of mature trees.

55/10 The Chairman concurred with members that HKFYG should carry out compensatory planting and the number of trees for compensatory planting should not less than the number of trees lost in the project. She also advised HKFYG to submit a more comprehensive EIA study in accordance with the EIAO to the Board for further deliberation.

(Mr. Alan CHAN Lai-koon left the meeting at this juncture.)

IV. Proposed Double Haven Special Area, High Island Special Area, Sharp Island Special Area, Ung Kong Group Special Area and Ninepin Group Special Area (Working Paper: WP/CMPB/2/2010)

56/10 Mr. Dennis MOK presented the Working Paper WP/CMPB/2/2010. The paper introduced the proposed designation of Double Haven Special Area, High Island Special Area, Sharp Island Special Area, Ung Kong Group Special Area and Ninepin Group Special Area. The designation aimed at protecting the geological resources in the Hong Kong National Geopark. The proposed designated areas covered about 235 hectares of land.

57/10 Mr. Dennis MOK went on to brief members on the management of the proposed special areas. He added that the draft maps and relevant explanatory notes had already been circulated among government departments, and they would proceed to consult the North District Council and Sai Kung District Council in February and March 2010 respectively. After consultation, they would submit the finalized proposals to the Board for consideration and to the Chief Executive in Council for designation in accordance with section 24(1) of the Country Parks Ordinance (Cap. 208).

58/10 Knowing that the CLP planned to construct a windfarm near Ninepin Group, a member whether it would affect the designation of special areas.

59/10 Mr. Joseph SHAM replied that the proposed windfarm was located around 3 km east of Ninepin Group, and the EIA report of the project had been approved. Yet, whether the project could go ahead would still subject to the Government's separate approval.

60/10 The Chairman was concerned that although the windfarm was not located in the proposed designated areas, there would be considerable visual impacts to the Geopark and the proposed special areas.

61/10 In reply to a member's enquiry, Mr. LEUNG Chi-hong said that under section 24 of the Country Parks Ordinance (Cap. 208), the Chief Executive, on the advice of the Authority, might by order in the Gazette designate any area of Government land outside a country park as a special area. He added that the designation procedures for special areas were different from that of country parks and marine parks, where a public inspection period was required to invite public views.

62/10 In reply to the member's further enquiry, Mr. LEUNG Chi-hong said that the Authority would select an area of high conservation value for designating special areas; for example, the five proposed special areas were designated to protecting the geological landscape and features.

63/10 Mr. Joseph SHAM supplemented that in order to address public concerns about the designation, they would consult two relevant District Councils before submitting the draft maps to the Chief Executive in Council for designation.

64/10 A member enquired about the management and resources allocation for designating the five new special areas.

65/10 Mr. Joseph SHAM replied that the Government had allocated some fresh resources for the proper protection, management and law enforcement of the five proposed special areas. They would also redeploy existing resources for better management. He added that as a start, AFCD staff had already stepped up patrol around the five proposed special areas on Sunday and public holidays to collect visitor statistics and to distribute leaflets to visitors and or advise them about the safety measures.

66/10 In reply to the Chairman's enquiry, Mr. LEUNG Chi-hong said that any development works and activities inside the special areas would be regulated by the Authority in accordance with the Country Parks Ordinance (Cap. 208). After the designation, AFCD would start relevant education and publicity work so as to promote nature conservation for the new special areas. He went on to say that there were existing six special areas outside country parks in Hong Kong, such as Ma Shi Chau Special Area and Tai Po Kau Nature Reserve.

67/10 A member supported the designation of the five proposed special areas for nature conservation. He also welcomed the arrangement of advising visitors to not go onto those islands for their safety. On the other hand, he opined that the names of some places might not be accurate, like Kau Tau Shek and Ap Lo Chun.

68/10 Mr. Joseph SHAM replied that the place names shown on the draft maps were official names as provided by the Lands Department, and they would check with relevant authorities to reconfirm their correctness.

69/10 A member expressed his concerns over whether the windfarm would affect the nominations of Hong Kong National Geopark as a global geopark. He also asked if the proposed designation would affect the livelihood of fishers.

70/10 Mr. Joseph SHAM replied that the boundaries for the proposed special areas were drawn according to the high water mark. Hence the designation would not affect the livelihood of fishermen or any fishing activities in the sea areas.

71/10 A member reflected that some advisory signs erected in the Geopark affected the landscape, such as the information sign at Wong Chuk Kok Tsui.

72/10 Mr. Franco NG replied that the Authority also noted that the information sign erected at Wong Chuk Kok Tsui might affect the landscape, and they would move the sign to another location.

73/10 The Chairman said that members in general supported the designation of the five proposed special areas. She advised that the Authority should speed up the designation work so as to offer better protection to the geological landscape and features.

74/10 Mr. LEUNG Chi-hong thanked the Chairman and members' support to the proposed designation. He informed members that they would proceed to consult two District Councils on the draft maps and explanatory statements. The finalized draft maps and statements would be circulated for members' comments before submitting to the Chief Executive in Council in mid-2010.

**V. Summary Report of Country Parks Committee (CPC)
(Working Paper WP/CMPB/3/2010)**

75/10 As Ms. Betty HO Siu-fong, Chairman of the Country Parks Committee, was not able to attend the meeting, the Chairman invited Mr. Joseph SHAM to present the Summary Report of CPC on her behalf.

76/10 Mr. Joseph SHAM presented Working Paper WP/CMPB/3/2010 on issues discussed at the CPC meeting held on 3 December 2009. They included Hong Kong Section of Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link (XRL), Study on Land Use Planning for the Closed Area – Draft Development Plan, Feasibility Study on Mountain Bike Trail Networks in South Lantau, a summary of development proposals within country parks from 1 April to 30 September 2009 and the Country and Marine Parks Authority Progress Report on Country Parks.

**VI. Summary Report of Marine Parks Committee (MPC)
(Working Paper WP/CMPB/4/2010)**

77/10 As Prof. Paul LAM Kwan-sing, J.P., Chairman of the Marine Parks Committee, was not able to attend the meeting, the Chairman invited Mr. Joseph SHAM to present the Summary Report on MPC on his behalf.

78/10 Mr. Joseph SHAM presented Working Paper WP/CMPB/4/2010 on issues discussed at the MPC meeting held on 5 November 2009. They included Review and Development of Marine Water Quality Objectives – First Stage Public Engagement and the Country and Marine Parks Authority Progress Report on Marine Parks and Marine Reserve.

**VII. Summary Reports of Public Relations Committee (PRC)
(Working Paper WP/CMPB/5/2010)**

79/10 Dr. LO Wing-lok, J.P., Chairman of the Public Relations Committee, presented Working Paper WP/CMPB/5/2010 on issues discussed at the PRC meeting on 16 October 2009.

80/10 Major issues discussed at the meeting included the publicity and media coverage on country and marine parks for the period from 10 June to 8 October 2009, the Country Parks "Nature in Touch" Education Programmes, Country Parks Volunteer Scheme and the Country and Marine Parks Authority Progress Report.

**VIII. Country and Marine Parks Authority Progress Report
(Working Paper WP/CMPB/6/2010)**

81/10 Mr. Joseph SHAM presented Working Paper WP/CMPB/18/2009. He informed members that the Progress Report gave an account on the progress of work and quality of service in relation to country parks, special areas, marine parks and marine reserve as well as performance pledges. He highlighted that the number of visitors to country parks had increased by 22.16%, probably due to the launching of the Hong Kong National Geopark. Members noted the contents of the report.

82/10 A member enquired if the Authority would implement any special transportation arrangement to deal with the increasing number of visitors to the High Island Geo-area.

83/10 Mr. Edmond LAM replied that the number of visitors to the High Island Geo-area had increased by 30% in the past few months, especially on Sundays and public holidays. Most of them went there by taxi. AFCD staff had already stepped up patrol in the area and advised visitors about the safety measures.

84/10 He went on to say that in view of the increasing number of visitors going to the High Island Geo-area, they were exploring with the Water Supplies Department (WSD) and Transport Department for arranging shuttle buses to the area. Besides, to limit the number of visitors in the High Island Geo-area, vehicles, except for taxi, should apply a permit to enter the High Island reservoir area; and WSD would only allow a maximum of three 29-seater minibuses to enter the area at the same time. They would closely monitor the situation and consider introducing further control measures if necessary.

IX. Any Other Business

85/10 Members had no other business to discuss.

X. Date of Next Meeting

86/10 The Chairman informed members that the next meeting had been tentatively scheduled for 4 May 2010.

87/10 The meeting was adjourned at 17:05 p.m.