

Country and Marine Parks Board
Report on Annual Field Visit on Monday, 16 December 2019

PARTICIPANTS

Members

Professor LING Kar-kan, SBS	Chairman
Professor HE Shen-jing	
Dr LAU Tai-wai, David	
Mr LEE Yee-keung, Charles	
Professor LEUNG Mei-yee, Kenneth, JP	
Mr SO Kwok-yin, Ken	
Dr TANG Chin-cheung	
Ms WONG Pik-yan, Nicole	
Dr LEUNG Siu-fai, JP	Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
Dr SO Ping-man, JP	Deputy Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation
Ms Daisy LO	Assistant Director (Nature Conservation), Environmental Protection Department (EPD)
Ms Eugenia CHUNG, JP	Assistant Director of Home Affairs (2), Home Affairs Department

Participants from The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD)

Mr Patrick LAI	Assistant Director (Country and Marine Parks)
Ms Louise LI	Senior Marine Parks Officer
Mr Franco NG	Senior Country Parks Officer (Management 1)
Mr Alfred WONG	Senior Country Parks Officer (Ranger Services 1)

Ms Eva YAU	Senior Country Parks Officer (Ranger Services 2) (Ag.)
Ms Cynthia CHAN	Senior Country Parks Officer (Planning & Regulations) (Ag.)
Dr James LUK	Country Parks Officer (Sai Kung)
Mr Alvin NG	Geopark Officer (Education)

Secretary

Ms Phyllis CHAN	Assistant Secretary (Boards) 1, AFCD
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VISIT DETAILS

1. Pak Tam Chung

1.1 The Policy Address 2019 announced that the Government would study the feasibility of developing Pak Tam Chung as a visitor hub and a gateway to the Sai Kung Country Park and the Hong Kong UNESCO Global Geopark with a view to further promoting green tourism. In the morning session of the Annual Field Visit, members visited Pak Tam Chung and were briefed by AFCD on the existing facilities there, including the Sai Kung Country Park Visitor Centre, refreshment kiosk, water dispenser, real-time weather panel and illustrated map, parking areas and transport facilities, barrier gate and P.H.A.B. Site. They also learnt about AFCD's plan to carry out a preliminary planning study to identify the service needs and requirements for the setting up of a visitor hub at Pak Tam Chung.

1.2 The Chairman and members appreciated the initiative to improve the ancillary facilities at Pak Tam Chung and made a few suggestions in this regard. They suggested that the electronic panel could be used to provide more visitor information in addition to weather information and green messages. They also suggested that green features could be added to the existing facilities, for example, solar panels could be installed on bus stop shelters and rooftop of the Sai Kung Country Park Visitor Centre to generate electricity and demonstrate the use of renewable energy. Moreover, they supported AFCD's plan to re-design Pak Tam Chung area, including Sai Kung Country Park Visitor Centre and P.H.A.B. Site, to serve as a

one-stop visitor hub and cater for the need for gathering point of large scale outdoor events. AFCD indicated that the preliminary planning study would explore the feasibility of various enhancement opportunities, including those suggested by members.

2. East Dam, High Island Reservoir

2.1 Members then visited East Dam, High Island Reservoir, and were briefed on the background, unique geological features and landforms and recent improvements of this place as a green attraction. Members learnt that East Dam has been a part of Geopark since 2009 and is famous for its hexagonal rock columns and sea cave which could be seen closely walking on the High Island Geo Trail and the wooden boardwalk. They also learnt about the construction and operation of the new toilet at East Dam. The new toilet had water and electricity supplies, lighting and ventilation system. In addition, solar panels were installed on the roof to supply electricity to the toilet and toilet attendants were deployed to clean the toilet every day.

2.2 Moreover, members were briefed on the measures that AFCD had taken in cooperation with Tourism Commission to enhance the tourism potential of East Dam. The measures included the provision of green minibus service between Pak Tam Chung and the East Dam on Sundays and public holidays, the opening of the new Biu Tsim Kok Viewing Platform, and re-planting to beautify the environment. Members were informed that AFCD was also working with Tourism Commission on the plan to introduce a new route to Fa Shan where visitors could enjoy panoramic views of Po Pin Chau. Members generally welcomed the plan.

2.3 As members hiked along the trail leading to Biu Tsim Kok Viewing Platform, AFCD showed members how to participate in the Complete Walk on MacLehose Trail 2019 and gave a brief introduction on the construction and maintenance of the “handmade” trails.

3. Kau Sai Chau

3.1 After lunch at a restaurant in Sai Kung Town, members were given a guided visit at Hong Kong UNESCO Global Geopark Volcano Discovery Centre and learnt about the background and development of Geopark, the location and characteristics of various geo-sites, and the formation process of the unique geological features and landforms. Members noted that the centre provided guided tours for the public and gave information and suggestions of geotour routes to visitors.

3.2 After that, members went to Kau Sai Chau by boat and visited Hung Shing Temple, the restoration of which had won the Outstanding Project Award of the 2000 UNESCO Asia-Pacific Heritage Awards for Culture Heritage Conservation. Then, they were given a guided visit of the Kau Sai Village Story Room by a local villager and learnt about the history of Kau Sai Chau and the traditional way of life on the island. Members also went to Sharp Island by boat to see quartz monzonites and other volcanic rocks on the tombolo, which was one of the popular geo-sites.

3.3 Overall speaking, this field visit provided members with a good opportunity to better understand AFCD's work and plans in geopark and country parks.

Country and Marine Parks Authority

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