

COMMUNITY SPORTS COMMITTEE

Minutes of the 12th Meeting of Community Sports Committee

Date: 28 February 2007 (Wednesday)
Time: 10:30 am
Venue: Conference Room I, Home Affairs Bureau, 41/F, Revenue Tower,
5 Gloucester Road, Wanchai, Hong Kong.

Present Mr CHAU How-chen (Chairman)
Mr CHAN Kui-yin
Mrs CHAN LO Yin-bing
Mr Norman CHAN Shui-tim
Ms CHAU Chuen-heung
Mr Francis CHAU Yin-ming
Mr Cowen B CHIU
Mr Kenny CHOW Kun-wah
Mr Alan CHOW Yiu-ming
Mr FUNG Kwong-chung
Mr James KONG Tze-wing
Mr Benedict LEE Shui-sing
Mrs Laura LING LAU Yuet-fun
Dr LO Wing-lok
Mr PUI Kwan-kay
Mr SUEN Kai-cheong
Mr TONG Wai-lun
Mr Kenneth TSUI Kam-cheung
Mr YEUNG Hoi-cheung
Prof LEUNG Mee-lee

Department Representatives in Regular Attendance

Mr Daniel SIN Pak-wing (Representative from Home Affairs Bureau)
Ms Olivia CHAN Yeuk-oi (Representative from Leisure and Cultural Services
Department)
Dr Regina CHING Cheuk-tuen (Representative from Department of Health)
Dr CHOW Wah (Representative from Education and Manpower
Bureau)

Mr SIT Tung (Representative from Social Welfare Department)

Ms LI Wan-in (Representative from Home Affairs Department)

Absent with Apologies

Mr John FAN Kam-ping (Vice-chairman)

Prof CHEUNG Siu-yin

Mr LEUNG Che-cheung

In Attendance

Mr Thomas CHOW Tat-ming (Leisure and Cultural Services Department)

Mr LIU Ming-kwong (Leisure and Cultural Services Department)

Mrs Kane LI CHOI Wing-kwan (Leisure and Cultural Services Department)

Mrs CHOY LAM Sau-ha (Leisure and Cultural Services Department)

Ms LOK Kit-ha (Secretary) (Leisure and Cultural Services Department)

Opening Remarks

1.1 The Chairman welcomed all Members and representatives from various government departments to the Meeting.

1.2 The Chairman remarked that this was the first meeting of the Community Sports Committee (CSC) in the year 2007-8. He was pleased to note that the CSC had continuous support from all committee members, representatives from the Sports Federation & Olympic Committee of Hong Kong, China and various government departments. The main duty of the CSC was promoting participation of community members through formulating strategies and measures for community sports and to reflect their views and comments through the Sports Commission (SC) to the government. The CSC this year comprised 29 members from different sectors, including local dignitaries and representatives from the sports sector, education sector, District Councils (DCs), health care sector and government departments. All Members had rich experience in their own fields. It was confident that members would make great contribution in implementing the work of the CSC. The Chairman invited that Members offered their views proactively so as to promote the development of community sports.

1.3 The Chairman stated that there were three new members in the CSC this year, namely Mr FUNG Kwong-chung, Mr KONG Tze-wing and Mr CHOW Yiu-ming, who came from Wong Tai Sin DC, Eastern DC and Kwun Tong DC respectively. All three of them possessed the experience in promoting community sports development and surely would offer more views and opinions at district level to the CSC. On behalf of the committee, the Chairman welcomed the three new members and also thanked the outgoing member Mr CHAN Tung for his contribution to the CSC. In addition, the Chairman also welcomed Mr LIU Ming-kwong, the new Deputy Director of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) and expressed his gratitude to Mr Alan SIU Yu-bun, the former Deputy Director of the LCSD, on behalf of the committee.

Item 1: Confirmation of the Minutes of the 11th Meeting of the CSC

2.1 The Secretariat issued the draft minutes of the 11th Meeting to Members by fax on 12

February. Up to 21 February, the Secretariat had received two proposals for amending item 3.1 and item 6.4(j) from the Home Affairs Bureau (HAB) and Education and Manpower Bureau (EMB) respectively. The amended draft minutes was sent to all Members by fax on 22 February. The Chairman asked Members to read the summary of proposed amendments to the minutes tabled at the Meeting. As there was no other amendment, the Chairman announced the minutes of the 11th Meeting being endorsed.

Item 2: Matters Arising

(i) Progress of the Development of a Large and Multi-purpose Stadium at Kai Tak

3.1 Mr Daniel SIN of the HAB briefed Members on the progress of the development of a large and multi-purpose stadium at Kai Tak. At the 11th Meeting of the CSC, Members learnt that the HAB had engaged a consultant to study the financial feasibility of developing a large and multi-purpose stadium at Kai Tak. The study was completed at the end of December and the result had been reported to the SC. The report stated that it was financially feasible to develop a large and multi-purpose stadium at Kai Tak under suitable conditions and operational principles. The consultant had suggested a number of operational principles including government principles, commercial principles and market-driven principles, etc. The concrete plan on operational principles was subject to further study. The SC adopted the consultancy report and suggested grabbing the chance to build a well-equipped multi-purpose stadium. The HAB would follow up the proposals in the consultancy report. In addition, the SC decided to designate the Major Sports Events Committee to follow up the matters concerning the development of a large and multi-purpose stadium at Kai Tak. The HAB would continue to report the progress of the plan to the committee and invited Members to keep on taking note of and give their support to the plan.

Item 3: Report on the follow-up work of “Strategies for Promoting Community Sports” (CSC Paper 1/07)

4.1 The Chairman remarked that at the 11th Meeting of the CSC, the LCSD had reported the results of the consultation on the paper on “Strategies for Promoting Community Sports” which had been introduced to District Councils as well as the follow-up work afterwards. The Chairman invited Ms LOK Kit-ha to report the latest situation of all items of follow-up work.

4.2 Ms LOK Kit-ha of the LCSD briefed Members on the contents of the CSC Paper 1/07. In short, the follow-up work concerning the “Strategies for Promoting Community Sports” had commenced and specific work of all working groups would be reported in details in due course when relevant items were discussed.

4.3 The Chairman invited Members to give their views on the contents of the Paper. No views were given at the Meeting and the Chairman asked the LCSD to continue to follow up all the work in relation to the “Strategies for Promoting Community Sports”.

Item 4: Report on the “1st Hong Kong Games Organising Committee” (CSC Paper 2/07)

5.1 The Chairman reported that the “1st Hong Kong Games” (HKG), comprising four sports items including table tennis, badminton, basketball and athletics, would be held from April to May this year. The 1st Hong Kong Games Organising Committee (OC) and the Working Group on Publicity and Public Relations under it had held two meetings respectively to actively follow up all the work on organisation and publicity. The Chairman asked Mrs Kane LI, the Secretary General of the OC, to report the progress of the organising work of the 1st HKG.

5.2 Mrs Kane LI, the Secretary General of the OC, briefed Members on the contents of CSC Paper 2/07 and the design concept of the emblem of the 1st HKG.

5.3 The Chairman stated that the 1st HKG Launching Ceremony held at Kowloon Park had attracted a large attendance of members from media and sports sector and the atmosphere was good. The emblem possessed special design features. He invited Members to comment on the contents of the Paper.

5.4 Members had a detailed discussion on the contents of the Paper and their views were summarised as follows:

- (a) Mr TONG Wai-lun stated that in terms of prizes, the top eight winners of each sport item could score points for their districts according to their places in the competitions, while the remaining ten districts would not score any points. He opined that, in order to promote sportsmanship, all participating districts should score points. For distinction, only those absent or withdrawn from the competitions should not score any points. He suggested that encouragement should be offered to the participating districts by giving at least 1 point to the districts that were knocked out in the first round, and at least 2 points to those that lost in the second round and so forth.
- (b) Mrs Kane LI, the Secretary General of the OC, explained that thorough discussion had been made on the scoring system with the relevant four National Sports Associations (NSAs). The scoring system had been endorsed by the OC and distributed to the 18 DCs. Ms Olivia CHAN of the LCSD added that the rules of the game had been discussed and confirmed by the LCSD and the relevant co-organisers and all DCs had been informed. As the 1st HKG would stage in April, in order to avoid confusion caused by changes to the rules, she proposed to put the said suggestion on record, pending further study by the OC during the review upon the 1st HKG.
- (c) Mr YEUNG Hoi-cheung raised the following suggestions for the consideration of the OC to improve the arrangements of the HKG:
 - (i) The HKG should be opened to those aged over 17. At present, the age limits of participants of various events were 12, 16 or non-specified. It was anticipated that most of the participants would be primary and secondary school students or their parents. The age of participants in some events (such as basketball) might vary greatly. There were worries that might cause some problems and subsequently affect the standard of the competitions;
 - (ii) A knock-out system would be adopted for all matches. The objective of the HKG was to promote Sports-for-All. In view of the fact that substantial resources had been injected into the selection and training of athletes, all districts should be allowed more chances to take part in the competition. So a knock-out system was not desirable. Besides, since only the top 8 winners of each event could score points, in case two teams well matched in strength played against each other, the losing team might be put in a disadvantageous position when calculating the total scores for the overall champion;
 - (iii) Each district should cover their teams with a policy of insurance. He was

concerned whether the preparation of the insurance policy would be affected as the age of participants as well as the number of matches of each event were varied.

- (d) The Chairman remarked that the age of participants of various events had been discussed in detail with the relevant NSAs. As the skills of some young table-tennis athletes were quite outstanding, they would not be refrained from joining the competition.
- (e) Miss Olivia CHAN of the LCSD said in response that at the previous CSC meeting, Members had discussed whether age limit should be imposed for the HKG. Since the Hong Kong School Sports Federation (HKSSF) had organised schools competitions for students, some Members suggested that the age of participants should be set at over 17 to avoid overlapping of resources. The views of Members on the age limits of participants had been conveyed to the OC. Subsequent to the detailed discussion between the OC and NSAs, the current option was adopted. Since this was the first HKG, the preparation time was relatively pressing. Upon completion of the first HKG, public opinion on various arrangements of the HKG, including the age limits of participants, format of competition and scoring system, etc. would be collected and reviewed. Upon conclusion of the views collected and experience gained, it was expected that the preparatory work of the next HKG would be improved.
- (f) Mr Benedict LEE remarked that the objective of staging the HKG was to provide districts with more opportunities for sports participation, exchanges and co-operation with a view to facilitating communication and promoting friendship among the 18 districts and further promoting the Sports-for-All at the community level. To avoid the possibility of some districts might arrange their elite athletes to take part in the competitions for desirable results, Mr Benedict LEE inquired that whether there was any mechanisms in place to regulate format of competition or selection of athletes to ensure that the promotion of the philosophy of Sports-for-All and the enhancement of public participation could be achieved, instead of organising another competition for elite athletes.
- (g) Miss Olivia CHAN of the LCSD said in response that the objective and positioning of the HKG had been discussed in detail at the first OC meeting. It had been confirmed that the objective of the first HKG was to encourage active public participation in sports, thus further promoting the culture of Sports-for-All at the community level. Hence, regarding the eligibility of athletes, it had been specified that athletes who had been selected to represent Hong Kong in international competitions in the past three years were not eligible to participate in the HKG to ensure that the participants were non-elite athletes.
- (h) The Chairman added that each district was responsible for selecting athletes to represent the respective district in the competitions. The NSAs concerned could also select athletes with potential through the HKG for further training.
- (i) Mr Kenneth TSUI agreed with the views of Mr Benedict LEE. To implement the philosophy of Sports-for-All, no elite athletes should be selected to take part in the competitions. Since this would be the first HKG, he suggested that the OC might consider the following suggestions upon completion of the event:
 - (i) With regard to the age of participants, it was suggested that a minimum age

limit should be set. Should the age of an individual participant was below the age limit, it was suggested that the district should ensure the participant in question did have the ability and experience to compete with other elder athletes in the same event;

- (ii) Regarding the promotion of sports, to encourage members of the public to support their respective districts to actively take part in the Games, other formats of competition might be adopted to enhance the competitiveness of the Games, such as to arrange some events to adopt the knock-out system in the first round and then subsequent matches to be conducted by dividing into groups so as to enhance the level of participation and competitiveness of the competitions;
 - (iii) For the scoring method, as the knock-out system was adopted, at present the scores of the top eight winners were just one point behind each other, it was suggested increasing the difference in scores between each winner.
- (j) Mr KONG Tze-wing declared that he was a member of the OC of the 1st HKG. As the preparation time for the competitions was rather pressing, for effective review of the event in the future, it was suggested that a standing organising committee for the HKG should be set up upon the completion of the first HKG.
- (k) Dr LO Wing-lok considered that according to CSC Paper 2/07, the estimated number of participants were about 2 500. It had achieved the goal of Sports-for-All in terms of quantification. Concerning the age of participants, since each district would definitely select athletes with outstanding past records to participate in the Games to strive for desirable results, he considered that the age of participants did not matter and the competitions should be competitive. Regarding the banning of elite athletes in the Games, he considered that the participation of elite athletes would on the contrary provide opportunities for both non-elite and elite athletes to pit their skills and raise the standard of the competitions. As the HKG was not a “Hong Kong Games for All”, the issue of whether elite athletes should be allowed to participate in the Games should be reviewed again when organising the next HKG.
- (l) Mr CHAN Kui-yin suggested that partial improvements might be made to the knock-out system, such as to arrange matches on home-and-away basis to provide one more competition opportunity and encourage members of the public to view the matches on site to achieve the purpose of exchanges. Concerning the eligibility of athletes, in order to achieve the objective of Sports-for-All, it was suggested that at the next HKG, all participants should be members of any District Sports Associations (DSAs) recognised by the respective DCs to ensure that all participants were residents of the districts concerned and, at the same time, to strengthen the function of DSAs in promoting district sports affairs.
- (m) Mrs Kane LI, Secretary General of the OC, added that with regard to the formats of competition, in order to provide participants with more chances to take part in competitions, matches would be conducted on group basis in the preliminary rounds for the events of badminton and table tennis. Knock-out system would only be adopted for the final eight or four. For the athletics events, each district might arrange two representatives to participate in the individual events. The scores gained in the preliminary rounds would be used to determine whether the participants could enter the finals. For the basketball events, as arrangements had

to be made to coordinate the provision of referees, trainings and venues of competition, only single knock-out system could be adopted. However, the suggestions on the formats of competition would be put on record and submitted to the OC as reference for future review.

- (n) Mr FUNG Kwong-chung considered that the preparation time for the HKG was rather short and Members also understood the problem involved. It was hoped that, upon completion of the 1st HKG, an in-depth review on the arrangements would be conducted. Regarding the selection of athletes, he trusted that the DCs would select athletes based on the advice of the Independent Commission Against Corruption and the guidelines issued by the OC. All potential athletes should be residents of the districts they represented. No cross-district enrolment would be accepted. Concerning the age of participants, the OC had discussed in great details and opined that flexible arrangements should be made in view of the nature of individual events and the performance of the athletes.
- (o) Mrs Kane LI, Secretary General of the OC, added that the HKG aimed at promoting Sports-for-All. After thorough discussion, the OC decided that elite athletes should not be allowed to participate in the Games. Despite these, the OC nevertheless were concerned about the participation of elite athletes. To raise the level of skills of the athletes from the 18 districts, endorsement was given by the OC to invite four NSAs to arrange elite athletes to conduct demonstration competitions from late March to early April and to share their views and valuable experience with the athletes from the 18 districts.
- (p) Mr TONG Wai-lun suggested that the fixture balloting for the 18 districts could be used as one of the publicity activities for the HKG. The Chairman thanked Mr TONG Wai-lun for his views and the suggestion would be submitted to the Working Group on Publicity and Public Relations for consideration.

5.5 The Chairman thanked Members for their valuable views. The Chairman explained that to tie in with the District Council Election and the activities to celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the establishment of the HKSAR, the first HKG was arranged to be held in April. The views of Members would be put on record as reference for the review of the first HKG.

Item 5: Report of the Working Group on the Formulation of Indicators for Measuring the Effectiveness of Sport for All (CSC Paper 3/07)

6.1 The Chairman said that the first meeting of the Working Group on the Formulation of Indicators for Measuring the Effectiveness of Sport for All (the Working Group) was held on 25 January. He requested Dr LO Wing-lok, convener of the Working Group, to brief Members on the progress of the work of the Working Group.

6.2 Dr LO Wing-lok, convener of the Working Group, briefed Members on CSC Paper 3/07.

6.3 Members discussed the paper in detail. The discussion was summarised as follows:

- (a) Mr TONG Wai-lun enquired about how the sample size of 3 000 was determined. He opined that the report of the study must be representative and authoritative and its findings accurate and convincing. In view of that, he suggested that the study should refer to international standards and adopt a population size of 7 000 000 as a basis to determine a representative sample size.

- (b) Dr LO Wing-lok explained that members of the Working Group included scholars and professionals on sports studies and they had discussed in detail the issues concerned and expected that the study should be authoritative. After deliberations, they concluded that a sample size of 3 000 were sufficient to represent the whole of Hong Kong. Only that the sample size would be relatively small if breaking down into 18 districts.
- (c) Ms LOK Kit-ha added that 3 000 samples were statistically representative. More data would be gathered if the sample size were larger. However, the availability of resources should be considered too. According to current market information, the cost of each household interview was approximately HK\$300. If the sample size had to be enlarged, the LCSD would look for additional resources actively.
- (d) Mr TONG Wai-lun opined that the cart should not put before the horse. Resources should not be the paramount consideration. The Working Group should be the one to figure out ways to conduct an authoritative and representative study. At present, the government had already had a considerable surplus. If resources were insufficient, the department should look for other ways to secure additional resources.
- (e) Dr Regina CHING, would like to know the age distribution of the proposed 1 500 samples of each phase of the household interviews. As considerable data of students was collected at the school level, she suggested that, if there were insufficient resources or the questionnaire did not cover the ages of children being interviewed, available data of students could be consolidated to further enhance the representativeness of the findings and data of the study. Regarding the establishment of effective indicators as mentioned in paragraph 5 of the paper, it was noted that the standards varied among countries. According to the guidelines issued several years ago under the “Healthy Exercise for All Campaign” organised by the Department of Health and the LCSD, members of the public were advised to do exercise on a daily basis for 30 minutes. However, this Paper recommended a standard of doing exercise for 30 minutes at least three times weekly. She worried that this indicator did not align with that adopted by the Campaign. Moreover, the World Health Organisation also recommended a daily exercise of 30 minutes. She would like the Working Group to reconsider the matter.
- (f) Dr LO Wing-lok explained that the two sets of indicators did not contradict each other. The questionnaire survey enquired the respondents about their frequency of doing exercise in the past week and analysed the collected data against the indicator. For instance, doing exercise daily would be most beneficial but doing it three times weekly could serve the purpose of enhancing health. In addition, he agreed that this study should make reference to the age distribution of Hong Kong.
- (g) Mr Kenneth TSUI suggested that, with the advancement of internet technology, the consultant could collect data from simple online survey in addition to face-to-face household interviews, so that more information could be gathered in a more cost-effective manner.
- (h) Prof LEUNG Mee-lee suggested the Working Group considering carefully the details of the tenderers’ proposal including the sampling method and sample size. Having referred to the definition of doing physical exercise in the “Public Opinion Survey on Physical Exercise Participation in Hong Kong”, this study had adopted

an indicator specifying that by doing physical exercise, it referred to doing exercise of medium intensity at least 3 times per week and spending 30 minutes or above on each occasion. She remarked that as it was not easy to define “medium intensity”, it would be necessary to ensure that the respondents fully understood what physical exercise of medium intensity meant. She also agreed with Mr Kenneth TSUI’s proposal of collecting information through online survey in addition to face-to-face household interviews. However, as online respondents were basically literate and had a knowledge of information technology, the sample distributions might be affected. In addition, she opined that HK\$300 was already the minimum cost per household interview. She worried that the quality of the market research institution could not be guaranteed if the tender was awarded to the bidder with the lowest offer.

- (i) Dr LO Wing-lok said in response that the Working Group had a clear definition of “physical exercise of medium intensity”. However, it must be ensured that the interviewers could clearly explain it to the household respondents. He suggested that the consultant should engage experienced interviewers rather than volunteers to conduct the household interviews.
- (j) Mr CHAN Kui-yin pointed out that fitness tests for students were conducted annually and the Education and Manpower Bureau had already had a large collection of relevant findings and indicators. In order to utilise resources efficiently, he suggested that the study should focus on specific age groups, such as that of the working population or of certain regions. By doing so, wastage of resources could be avoided thus the accuracy of the data collected would not be affected.
- (k) Mr Francis CHAU thanked Members for supporting the Working Group. Although resources were limited, the Working Group would primarily focus on the needs of the study rather than the availability of resources when deliberating the study. In the course of deliberations, the Working Group had studied issues like the methodology adopted by other cities and whether other aspects should be covered by the study. Reference would also be made to the findings of the “Physical Fitness Test for the Community”. The Working Group suggested that the current study should mainly aim at establishing indicators for measuring the effectiveness of “Sports-forAll”. Since the indicators varied among countries, the Working Group would consider in detail issues like the accuracy and reliability of the report of the study. He hoped that the LCSD could seek more resources. The second meeting of the Working Group to be held in the near future would discuss details of the consultancy study so as to define the scope of the study.
- (l) Miss Olivia CHAN of the LCSD said that she fully understood Members’ opinions. The LCSD would actively seek sufficient resources to ensure that the study would be representative and that it could effectively assessed the effectiveness of the efforts of the LCSD and other district sports bodies in promoting Sports-for-All on the community level. In addition, she explained to Members that tender price was not the sole evaluation criterion in government tender exercise. In order to ensure that the service quality of the successful tenderer would attain desirable level, what came first when assessing a tender document was the contents and quality of the proposal rather than the tender price.

6.4 The Chairman expressed his gratitude to Members for their opinions. He believed that members of the Working Group would consider the suggestions in detail.

Item 6: Any Other Business

7.1 The Chairman thanked Members for attending the meeting. The Secretariat had faxed the schedule of meetings for 2007 to Members for reference. The next meeting was scheduled for 16 May and he hoped that Members could schedule time to attend the meeting.

(Post-meeting note: The 13th Meeting of the Community Sports Committee was rescheduled for 8 June 2007 (Friday).)

7.2 The Meeting was adjourned at 12 noon.

Community Sports Committee Secretariat
April 2007