

COMMUNITY SPORTS COMMITTEE

Minutes of the 15th Meeting of Community Sports Committee

Date: 20 February 2008 (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)
Mrs Susana CHAN LO Yin-bing
Mr Norman CHAN Shui-tim
Mr Kenny CHOW Kun-wah
Mr Alan CHOW Yiu-ming
Mr FUNG Kwong-chung
Mr James KONG Tze-wing
Dr LO Wing-lok
Mr PUI Kwan-kay
Mr SUEN Kai-cheong
Mr Kenneth TSUI Kam-cheung
Mr YEUNG Hoi-cheung

Department Representatives in Regular Attendance

Ms YIP Chun-hiu (Representative from Home Affairs Bureau)
Mrs LI CHOI Wing-kwan (Representative from Leisure and Cultural
Services Department)
Dr Regina CHING Cheuk-tuen (Representative from Department of Health)
Dr CHOW Wah (Representative from Education Bureau)
Ms YU Chau-ping (Representative from Social Welfare
Department)
Ms AU Yuen-shan (Representative from Home Affairs
Department)

Absent with Apologies

Mr John FAN Kam-ping (Vice-chairman)
Mr CHAN Kui-yin
Ms CHAU Chuen-heung
Mr Francis CHAU Yin-ming

Prof CHEUNG Siu-yin
Mr Cowen B C CHIU
Mr Benedict LEE Shui-sing
Mr LEUNG Che-cheung
Mrs Laura LING LAU Yuet-fun
Mr TONG Wai-lun
Prof LEUNG Mee-lee

In Attendance

Mr Vincent LIU Ming-kwong (Leisure and Cultural Services Department)
Ms LAM Sau-ha (Leisure and Cultural Services Department)
Prof Stanley HUI Sai-chuen (Department of Sports Science and Physical
Education, the Chinese University of Hong
Kong)
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. In particular, he welcomed Ms YU Chau-ping from the Social Welfare Department, Ms AU Yuen-shan from the Home Affairs Department (HAD) and Prof Stanley HUI from the Department of Sports Science and Physical Education of the Chinese University of Hong Kong. In addition, the Chairman wished all Members good health and every success in this year. He also hoped that they would continue to make contribution to the promotion of community sports.

Item 1: Confirmation of the Minutes of the 14th Meeting of the CSC

2.1 The Secretariat sent the draft minutes of the 14th Meeting to Members for comment by fax on 25 January and hitherto had not received any proposals for amendments. As there was no further amendment proposed at the Meeting, the Chairman announced the minutes of the 14th Meeting being endorsed.

Item 2: Matters Arising

(i) Report on the follow-up actions of “Strategies for Promoting Community Sports”

3.1 The Chairman invited Ms LOK Kit-ha of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) to report the latest progress of all the follow-ups of “Strategies for Promoting Community Sports”.

3.2 Ms LOK Kit-ha of the LCS D first gave a briefing on the intensification of the scope of School Sports Programme (SSP) and better utilisation of school sports facilities. She reported that 1 006 schools participated in the SSP in 2007, accounting for about 80% of all schools in Hong Kong, with the number of student participants at 540 000. In order to raise the school participation rate to 85% and 90% in 2008/09 and 2009/10 respectively, the LCS D had actively launched a series of programmes, including paying visits to schools, arranging students to watch competitions and studying ways to increase the number of sports activities in conjunction with various National Sports Associations (NSAs). Regarding better utilisation of school sports facilities, the Student Sports Activities Coordinating Sub-Committee (SSACS) had compiled a line-to-take to address the concerns of schools, such as security, maintenance, cleansing, extra charges and third party liability insurance, etc. The line-to-take had been distributed to all school councils to facilitate them to clarify queries from their members and to encourage more schools to open up their school sports facilities. At present, 22 schools had given consent to open up their facilities for joint school training purpose. Regarding the development of district sports activities with local characteristics, the District Councils (DCs) and the LCS D would continue to cooperate with the NSAs and District Sports Associations (DSAs) to develop and promote such sports activities that had been identified. Moreover, in order to further promote the selected sports activities, the LCS D had held discussions with the relevant NSAs and arranged most events of the “Bank of China (Hong Kong) 51st Festival of Sport” (FOS) to be held at the districts that consented to promote the respective sports activities. Issues on the formulation of indicators to measure the effectiveness of strategies for promoting community sports and organisation of the 2nd Hong Kong Games (HKG) would be discussed in details in the Meeting.

3.3 Mr Alan CHOW welcomed the development of sports activities with local characteristics in different districts. He said that the district sport of Kwun Tong was Canoe Polo but venue was a major problem. He hoped that the LCS D could enhance the coordination in this regard.

(Post-meeting note: As the utilisation rate of Kwun Tong Swimming Pool was very high, upon the discussion of the LCS D and the Kwun Tong Sports Promotion Association, some of the Canoe Polo events of this year, including two training courses, one fun day and one carnival, would be held at Kwun Tong Swimming Pool, while other events would be held at venues outside Kwun Tong.)

3.4 Mr FUNG Kwong-chung remarked that as the DCs adopted a new mode of operation this year, the way of collaboration between the LCS D and the DCs had changed. From then on, all District Leisure Services Offices of the LCS D and DSAs had to apply for funding from DCs individually for organisation of district recreational and sports activities at different levels. He had discussed in the capacity of a DSA with the LCS D on the promotional arrangement of sports activities with local characteristics in the coming year. As there were seven organisations which regularly

applied for funds from Wong Tai Sin DC and resources were limited, he worried that there would be a mismatch problem in the sustainable development of sports activities with local characteristics. He asked whether the LCSD had any special arrangement to support the districts to develop sports activities with local characteristics. Moreover, he learned that Members had discussed the issue of enhancing sports development at schools and the community with additional resources in the 14th CSC Meeting. He asked if more resources could be obtained for development of sports activities with local characteristics.

3.5 Mr Kenny CHOW remarked that he himself and Mr YEUNG Hoi-cheung were members of the organising committee of the 51st FOS. They had put effort to match the NSAs with the districts that were responsible for developing the respective sports activities as far as possible. Although not all the events could be held in districts that were responsible for developing the respective sports activities, it was hoped that it could be done upon better coordination in the following year.

3.6 Mr Vincent LIU, Deputy Director of the LCSD, said in response that the 18 DCs would enhance their management of district facilities across the board from 2008 onwards. The HAD would allocate \$300 million annually to the 18 DCs for promotion of community involvement projects. Under the new mode of operation, the LCSD had to apply for funding from the DCs to organise recreational and sports activities in districts. He remarked that, with increased resources, the DCs could allocate resources at their own discretion to develop sports activities with local characteristics in accordance with the needs of the districts.

Item 3: Progress Report on the Study on the Participation Patterns of Hong Kong People in Physical Activities (CSC Paper 1/08)

4.1 The Chairman invited Dr LO Wing-lok, convenor of the Working Group on the Formulation of Indicators for Measuring the Effectiveness of Sport for All, to brief Members on the CSC Paper 1/08. He also invited them to refer to the information tabled at the Meeting.

4.2 Dr LO Wing-lok briefed Members on the CSC Paper 1/08. He also invited Prof Stanley HUI from the Department of Sports Science and Physical Education of the Chinese University of Hong Kong to brief Members on the summary of the literature review and the questionnaire survey proposal.

4.3 Prof Stanley HUI briefed Members on the summary of the literature review and the questionnaire survey proposal. The Chairman asked Members to give comments.

4.4 The views and comments of Members on the Paper were summarised as follows:

- (a) Dr Regina CHING thanked Prof Stanley HUI for his detailed explanation. She remarked that different countries placed different emphasis on the participation in physical activities. Some European and American countries stressed health improvement while others emphasised public participation and personality development. She suggested that this Committee should discuss first if Members agreed that the promotion of Sport for All should focus on health improvement. If the answer was affirmative, the requirements would be higher. She pointed out that documents of some advanced countries suggested that at least 30 minutes of sports of moderate intensity for most days of the week were required for health improvement. The current study also proposed to focus primarily on health improvement, but it suggested that the indicator should be three times of physical activities a week. Therefore, she opined that the Committee should discuss whether health improvement should be the primary objective in the promotion of Sport for All, and study if a more appropriate indicator should be adopted.
- (b) Dr LO Wing-lok said that the proposed definition of Sport for All did not specify any specific objectives. In his view, apart from health improvement, Sport for All could bring about many other benefits and achieve various objectives. At present, different countries had different indicators. If the findings of the survey study in Hong Kong were to compare with the study data of other countries, the adoption of a more widely used indicator would be helpful. He also pointed out that the formulation of indicators would affect neither the findings nor the analysis as the questionnaire survey would ask the respondents to indicate the number of days in a week that they participated in physical activities. In the analysis of the survey findings, he suggested that consideration could be given to the adoption of both indicators of three days a week and five days a week for measurement so as to take both cases into account.
- (c) Mrs Susana CHAN inquired about how respondents were selected in the survey. As it was a household survey to be conducted in the form of household interviews, she wanted to know how to ensure that the respondents were willing to be interviewed. She also questioned about the household interview time, and time required for completing a questionnaire, etc. As regards the objectives of Sport for All, she suggested asking the respondents their aims of participating in physical

activities in the questionnaire to understand their expectations for participation in Sport for All. This would serve as a reference to explore the direction of further development.

- (d) Mr James KONG was of the opinion that sports were closely related to health. As Hong Kong was promoting itself as a healthy city, he suggested including the objective of health attainment in the definition of Sport for All. He also pointed out that in the survey, the age group for adults was 20 or above. As the participation patterns for people at the age of 20 or 50 and above differed, he wondered if the findings would be biased if the survey focused on collecting the data of one of the subgroups of the above age group. He asked if the addition of one more age group would be considered.
- (e) Mr Norman CHAN was of the view that the study report had already been very complete. Regarding the age group of 20 or above, he remarked that the current participation patterns had undergone changes. He took playing basketball as an example. According to an internal investigation, there was an increasing number of elderly people participating in the sport and the age limit for participants in competitions held by the World Chinese Basketball Association had been raised from the previous 65 to 70. He opined that if the promotion of Sport for All went smoothly, then apart from health improvement, social stability, public order and education would also be benefited. As the age of sport enthusiasts was on the rise, he suggested that the LCSD and NSAs should enhance the first-aid training in order to tie in with the development of Sport for All.
- (f) Mr Kenny CHOW was of the opinion that the development of the promotion for Sport for All was closely related to health improvement. According to studies of some European and American countries, in places where Sport for All was pursued, people were healthy. That helped to cut the medical expenditure and boost various trades, thereby benefiting the economy. Moreover, he opined that in order to promote Sport for All, the overall value of the society had to be changed. Every stakeholder, e.g. employers and educational institutions, should provide a suitable environment with adequate time for their employees and students to do exercises.
- (g) Mr Kenneth TSUI opined that it would be inadequate if Sport for All was only meant for health. In order to encourage more people to take part in sports, competitions and contests should be held for nurturing elite sportsmen. Therefore, he suggested including concepts like

competitiveness, competitions and elitism in the definition of Sport for All. Moreover, he was of the view that most of the present sports facilities had been fully utilised and fell short of demands. Considerations should be given as to whether the sports facilities would be able to tie in with the development of Sport for All. In his opinion, sports like jogging and fitness training did not have much demand for facilities and could be catered for at the moment, but venues for other sports such as basketball and tennis would pose greater problems.

- (h) Prof Stanley HUI thanked Members for their views and responded to their questions as follows:
- (i) Concerning the methodology of the questionnaire survey, he proposed the contractor to adopt the method used in the population census, i.e. obtaining information on Hong Kong households from the Census and Statistics Department, selecting households to be interviewed by random sampling, then sending letters to the sampled households to explain the purpose of and arrangements for the survey, and arranging interviewers to conduct the survey by the contractor. To facilitate the public, the survey would mainly be conducted at night. However, appropriate times for the home visits would also be proposed with reference to the experience of the market research company. One member of a sampled household would be chosen by the Kish Grid Method for interview. If the chosen respondent found it inconvenient or was not at home at the scheduled time, the home visit would be re-arranged. Theoretically, the distribution of samples would be similar to that in the population census by applying the above sampling method. If deviations were found during the survey, the contractor could be asked to provide additional samples to ensure that there would be sufficient data for each age group for analysis.
 - (ii) The questionnaire covered the reasons for and against participation in sports, the barriers of sports participation, and whether they were related to venue and facilities. To understand the public needs for facilities, respondents would also be asked where they usually participated in sports.
 - (iii) One of the main purposes of the survey was to collect data on the participation patterns of primary and secondary students and adults in sports. As the way of living and learning environment were different among primary and secondary students, it was

proposed to use two sets of questions for the two groups. The age range of the adult group was decided with reference to the Physical Fitness Test for the Community under the Healthy Exercise for All Campaign conducted in 2006 and the national fitness test. Both tests regarded those aged 20 or above as adults. In the questionnaire for adults, the age range was subdivided into 10 groups to facilitate analysis of data on sports participation of the middle-aged and the elderly.

- (iv) Prof Stanley HUI agreed that health was very important and opined that participation in sports could also bring other benefits. Concerning the view that sufficient time should be provided for employees and students to participate in sports, he said that it needed the support of the organisations and institutions concerned. The findings of the survey would be submitted to the LCSD, the Education Bureau, the Department of Health and other organisations for reference for formulation of related strategies and measures to foster the overall sports culture of Hong Kong.
- (i) Mr Vincent LIU, Deputy Director of the LCSD, asked if there was a specific number of samples for each subgroup of the adult group as the questionnaire would be used to collect data of people aged 20 or above for analysis. Regarding sports facilities, as the LCSD would build more leisure facilities, he hoped that the questionnaire would include questions about the facilities and services of the LCSD so as to reflect the public needs for various sports facilities and leisure activities for reference in future planning.
- (j) In response to the question about the number of samples, Dr LO Wing-lok said take a sample size of 4 000 as example, among which adults would account for 2 000 while children and youth would account for about 1 000 respectively. As samples would be randomly chosen, people of different age groups would be included. Prof Stanley HUI added that in the questionnaire for adults, respondents would be asked their views on how Hong Kong should strengthen the promotion of Sport for All and the choices given included “to build large-scale sports centres” and “to increase community sports facilities”.
- (k) Mr James KONG opined that the community should not rely solely on the government in the provision of leisure facilities. He suggested that the questionnaire might include questions such as whether sports facilities should be increased in large development projects for public

use. He hoped that facilities for the promotion of Sport for All would be included in the construction plans of large development projects and that the community should not rely solely on the LCSD or the government to promote Sport for All.

- (l) Concerning leisure facilities, Mr Kenneth TSUI was of the view that being responsible for promoting community sports, the Committee must fully understand the constraints on the promotion of Sport for All. He was pleased to learn that the LCSD had planned to build more sports facilities. In view of Hong Kong's geographical constraints where there were lots of people in such a small piece of land, whether venue and facilities could tie in with the work of the promotion of Sport for All must be taken into consideration. He suggested studying the capacity of existing facilities, and the quantity of additional sports facilities to be provided by the government and other organisations in the future. After the study, the next step was to collect information on the public demand for facilities and then consider whether facilities could meet the demand before carrying out targeted promotion. The Chairman said that he would reflect Members' views on facilities and town planning to the Secretary for Home Affairs at the meeting of the Sports Commission.
- (m) Dr LO Wing-lok proposed to amend the definition of Sport for All and asked Members to give their views on the new definition. He said that health mainly comprised three aspects, namely physical/cardio-respiratory fitness, mental health and social health. Physical/cardio-respiratory fitness could be attained by doing physical exercises while mental and social health could be attained by participating in voluntary work. As such, the working group did not specify the targets to be achieved when drafting the definition of Sport for All.
- (n) After deliberation, Members agreed to amend the definition of Sport for All. The new definition would be referred to the working group for consideration. Prof Stanley HUI also asked Members to give their views on the two Chinese terms, “普及體育” and “普及運動”.
- (o) Dr CHOW Wah said that he was a member of the working group, which once had discussions on the two Chinese terms, “體育” and “運動”. In the past, the local sports sector had different interpretation of the two terms. When the English word “Sports” was referred, it was more appropriate to use “運動” as it meant organised competitive games. From the educational angle, the Education Bureau proposed

to adopt “運動” so that the public and students would have a correct interpretation. However, “體育” instead of “運動” was widely used at present. For example, the Committee also used “體育” in its name, which was common among committees and organisations in the Mainland. The working group was of the view that it was acceptable to use “體育” when an activity was treated as a strategy and a promotional measure. To avoid confusion with the existing usage, he had no objection to adopt “普及體育” though “普及運動” was more appropriate.

- (p) After detailed deliberation, the Committee agreed to continue to adopt the expression of “普及體育”. Dr LO Wing-lok proposed that its definition should be included in the report. He also took the opportunity to thank Members of the working group and Prof Stanley HUI for their active participation and efforts.

4.5 The Chairman thanked Members for their invaluable views and also Dr LO Wing-lok and Members of the working group for their efforts. He hoped that the survey would be completed successfully.

Item 4: Formation of the 2nd Hong Kong Games Organising Committee (CSC Paper 2/08)

5.1 Mr Vincent LIU, Deputy Director of the LCSD, said that the 1st HKG had been held successfully. He thanked Mr CHAU the Chairman, Mr FAN the Vice-chairman, and Members on behalf of the LCSD for their active involvement which contributed to the successful organisation of the 1st HKG. The 2nd HKG would be held in 2009 and the Secretary for Home Affairs had invited Mr CHAU and Mr FAN to take up again the roles of Chairman and Vice-chairman of the 2nd HKG Organising Committee. He thanked them for accepting the invitation and believed that the 2nd HKG would be held successfully under the leadership of Mr CHAU and Mr FAN.

5.2 The Chairman thanked the Secretary for Home Affairs for inviting him to take up again the role of the Chairman of the 2nd HKG Organising Committee and hoped that it would also be held successfully with the full support of Mr FAN the Vice-chairman and other Members. He asked Mrs Kane LI, Secretary General of the 2nd HKG Organising Committee, to brief Members on CSC Paper 2/08.

5.3 Mrs Kane LI presented CSC Paper 2/08 and asked the Community Sports Committee to nominate two representatives to join the 2nd HKG Organising Committee.

5.4 The Chairman proposed nominating again Mrs Susana CHAN and Mr Kenny CHOW as members of the 2nd HKG Organising Committee for them to follow up the recommendations of the 1st HKG. The proposal was unanimously endorsed. The Chairman expressed that the 2nd HKG Organising Committee would actively follow up the preparation work for the 2nd HKG.

Item 5: Any Other Business

6.1 Members did not raise any other items. The Chairman thanked Members for attending the meeting. The next meeting was tentatively scheduled for 18 June. The Chairman asked Members to refer to the schedule of regular meetings in 2008 tabled at the meeting and hoped that Members would reserve time to attend the meetings.

(Post-meeting note: The 16th meeting of the Community Sports Committee was rescheduled to 27 June 2008 (Friday)).

6.2 The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 pm.

Community Sports Committee Secretariat
June 2008