

COMMUNITY SPORTS COMMITTEE

Minutes of the 26th Meeting of the Community Sports Committee

Date: 1 December 2011 (Thursday)
Time: 10:30 am
Venue: Conference Room, 30/F, Southorn Centre,
130 Hennessy Road, Wanchai, Hong Kong

Present: Mr TONG Wai-lun (Chairman)
Mr David YIP Wing-shing (Vice-chairman)
Mr Daniel CHAM Ka-hung
Mr Henry CHAN Chi-chiu
Mr LAM Hong-wah
Mrs Stella LAU KUN Lai-kuen
Mr Philip LI Wing-kuen
Mr LIU Ah-chuen
Dr LO Wing-lok
Mr Raphael TONG Tai-wai
Mrs Cecilia WONG LAM Siu-ling
Dr Simon YEUNG Sai-mo
Mr George YIP Chi-wai
Mr CHU King-yuen
Prof LEUNG Mee-lee

Department Representatives in Regular Attendance

Ms Olivia CHAN Yeuk-oi (Representative from Leisure and Cultural Services Department)
Mr Benjamin MOK Kwan-yu (Representative from Home Affairs Bureau)
Dr Regina CHING Chuek-tuen (Representative from Department of Health)
Mr HO Chun-ip (Representative from Education Bureau)
Ms Olivia YIP Wai-ling (Representative from Social Welfare Department)
Mr WONG Man-Chung (Representative from Home Affairs Department)

Absent with Apologies

Mr CHENG Shu-ming
Ms Peggy LEE Pik-yee
Mr Lawrence LO Wing-man
Prof Stephen WONG Heung-sang

In Attendance

Mrs Betty FUNG CHING Suk-yee (Leisure and Cultural Services Department)
Mr Bobby CHENG Kam-wing (Leisure and Cultural Services Department)
Ms Rebecca LOU Wai-yi (Leisure and Cultural Services Department)
Ms LAM Sau-ha (Leisure and Cultural Services Department)
Ms Regina CHAN (Athlete Affairs Manager of Hong Kong)

Sports Institute)

Secretary

Mr Simon LIU Wai-shing

(Leisure and Cultural Services Department)

Opening Remarks

1.1 The Chairman welcomed all Members and representatives of various government departments to the meeting, and Ms Regina CHAN, Athlete Affairs Manager of the Hong Kong Sports Institute (HKSI) who would participate in the discussion of Item 3 on the agenda regarding the School Sports Coordinator Pilot Scheme. Besides, the Chairman welcomed Mr Simon LIU of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) who had taken up the post of Secretary of the Community Sports Committee (CSC) and was grateful to Ms LOK Kit-ha, the former Secretary for her contribution.

1.2 The Chairman, on behalf of the CSC, congratulated Mr LIU Ah-chuen on having been awarded a commendation certificate and a medal by the Secretary for Home Affairs.

Item 1: Confirmation of the Minutes of Last Meeting of the CSC

2.1 The draft minutes of the 25th meeting had been emailed to Members for comment on 1 November by the Secretariat and hitherto no proposals for amendments had been received. As no further amendment was proposed at the meeting, the Chairman announced that the minutes of the 25th meeting were endorsed.

Item 2: Matters Arising

(i) Report of the Advisory Committee on the Healthy Exercise for All Campaign – Physical Fitness Test for the Community

3.1 The Chairman invited Dr LO Wing-lok, the Convenor of the Advisory Committee on the Healthy Exercise for All Campaign – Physical Fitness Test for the Community (the Advisory Committee) to report the latest work progress of the Physical Fitness Test for the Community (the Physical Fitness Test).

3.2 Dr LO Wing-lok reported that the Advisory Committee had held its 5th meeting on 4 August 2011 to review the progress of various work of the Physical Fitness Test. The physical fitness tests for infants (aged 3 to 6) and children (aged 7 to 12) had been completed, collecting 584 and 2 803 successful samples respectively. The tests for adolescents (aged 13 to 19), conducted by randomly selecting one secondary school from

each of the 18 districts in the territory, had commenced on 26 September. Ten secondary schools had taken the tests as at mid-November, while it was expected that data from the remaining secondary schools would be collected and questionnaires completed by the end of December. In the light of the lukewarm response in the Stage I pilot tests for adults (aged 20 to 59) and seniors (aged 60 to 69), the Advisory Committee had increased the sample size from 3 000 to 6 500 and invited other family members in the selected households to take the tests. Under the new arrangement, data collection in Stage II commenced in mid-August 2011 had been quite fruitful. As at mid-November, 1 192 respondents, some of which were accompanying family members, had attended the tests. Together with the 232 respondents who had previously participated in the tests, a total of 1 424 successful samples had been collected. It was expected that about 2 100 successful samples would be gathered by mid-January 2012 for analysis and study of the two age groups. Upon completion of all data collection work, the relevant information would be passed to the Chinese University of Hong Kong for collation, data analysis and compilation of preliminary research findings.

(ii) Report on the Follow-up Action Plan on Study on Sport for All – the Participation Patterns of Hong Kong People in Physical Activities

4.1 The Chairman invited Mr Simon LIU of the LCSD to report the latest progress of the Follow-up Action Plan on Study on Sport for All – the Participation Patterns of Hong Kong People in Physical Activities.

4.2 Mr Simon LIU reported that the LCSD had chosen the middle-aged people as the main target in response to the findings and recommendations of the Study. Apart from organising more activities such as gateball and lawn bowls for the middle-aged people, the LCSD had been promoting to them since July 2011 fitness walking for which fitness requirements were relatively low and gear relatively simple. It had designated in the 18 districts in the territory 33 fitness walking tracks, most of which were found in LCSD venues or passed through facilities in the districts. It was hoped that members of the public could do fitness walking exercise anytime anywhere and incorporate the activity into their daily life after they grasped the proper skills. Besides, the LCSD had produced a series of promotional materials, including booklets, posters and promotional video. Copies of the promotional booklet on fitness walking which listed the 33 fitness walking tracks and introduced the basic gear for fitness walking, safety guidelines and instructions on using a pedometer were distributed in the meeting for Members' reference. To further promote Sport for All, the LCSD had held the Sport For All Day 2011 on 7 August under the programme theme of fitness walking with the key message of "Be Smart and Healthy. Let's Take a Brisk Walk Daily". The programmes had been well received by the public, attracting an attendance of over 200 000, of which about 26 000 had participated in a wide

range of free programmes, about 177 000 had enjoyed free use of leisure facilities, and over 1 000 had participated in fitness walking play-in activities held in the Ma On Shan Promenade, Hong Kong Park, Po Kong Village Road Park and Tsing Yi Park. There had been a strong sporting atmosphere in the community. Mr LIU played a four-minute promotional video on fitness walking in the meeting for Members' reference. The relevant video had been uploaded to LCSD's website and broadcast in leisure venues, including sports centres and swimming pools in all districts, as well as via the large video walls in Victoria Park and the Urban Council Centenary Garden.

4.3 Members gave their views on fitness walking activities. Their views and responses were summarised as follows:

- (a) Mrs Cecilia WONG asked if hyperlinks to information on fitness walking could be provided on school websites for parents' reference and enhancing promotion.
- (b) Mr Daniel CHAM suggested condensing the promotional video on fitness walking so that it could be broadcast on TV and radio during the free time slots the media provided for the Government, with a view to enhancing promotion. He thought that the booklet was content-rich and asked if it had already been uploaded to LCSD's website for the public to view. Furthermore, he suggested providing the walking distance and time for 8 000 to 10 000 steps and putting signs and clocks along the fitness walking tracks for the ease of calculation of walking distance and time by the public.
- (c) Dr Simon YEUNG commented that some fitness walking tracks (such as the one on Bowen Road) were relatively remotely located and long. He asked whether there were any drinking fountains and enquired the ways of handling emergencies. He suggested enhancing safety measures.
- (d) Mr Raphael TONG suggested including in the booklets the locations of the MTR stations to be completed in Western district when they were to be reprinted so as to provide the public with information on easier access to Sun Yat Sen Memorial Park.
- (e) Mr George YIP proposed that sufficient facilities for resting should be provided for users along the fitness walking tracks.
- (f) Mr CHU King-yuen opined that the publicity for and promotion of fitness

walking tracks in the districts should be enhanced at the community level. There were currently two fitness walking tracks in Tai Po district. He suggested promoting the relevant fitness walking tracks through organisations in the academic sector (such as School Liaison Committees) and organising major publicity campaigns through District Councils (DCs) to encourage the public to make use of the fitness walking tracks in the districts for persistent fitness walking.

- (g) Mr Henry CHAN thought that fitness walking was not confined to venues and thus should be widely promoted among the public to encourage them to do fitness walking exercise anytime anywhere. In addition, he agreed on promoting fitness walking tracks in the districts through the DCs, the effect of which, he believed, would be rather desirable. He commented that as information technology was advanced and smartphones were popular nowadays, the public might download applications for calculating consumption of calories, which could in turn simplify the calculation methods of calories and boost effectiveness.
- (h) Mr Philip LI said that he did exercise on Bowen Road every morning. With beautiful scenery and facilities like toilets and drinking fountains, there were however many foreigners riding bicycles, and vehicles for slope maintenance entering or leaving Bowen Road at 8 am, posing threat to the safety of people who did fitness walking exercise and causing pollution to the environment. He suggested enhancing safety measures and wished to know more about law enforcement arrangements against unauthorised cycling and skateboarding. He also proposed refraining maintenance vehicles from entering Bowen Road before 9 am in order to reduce emission of exhaust gas and ensure road safety.
- (i) Prof LEUNG Mee-lee pointed out that Bowen Road was relatively narrow and cars ran on it at relatively high speeds. Coupled with the fact that some sections were one-way, the safety of people who did fitness walking exercise there was worrying. She suggested conducting site visits to the relevant road sections to provide appropriate support for people who did fitness walking exercise there.
- (j) Ms Olivia CHAN of the LCSD thanked Members for their opinions and responded as follows:
 - (i) The booklet and promotional video on fitness walking had been

uploaded to LCSD's website. Organisations were welcome to create links to the website and interested organisations would be contacted in due course to follow up on the arrangement. She remarked that Members' opinions would be considered in order to further enrich the content of the booklets when they were to be reprinted. Besides, condensing the promotional video, broadcasting it on RoadShow, and the feasibility of producing a 30-second promotional video for broadcasting on TV would be considered on resource grounds, with a view to enhancing publicity and promotion work;

(Post-meeting note: The LCSD had planned to broadcast the promotional video on fitness walking on RoadShow in February 2012. With regard to the suggestion of producing a 30-second promotional video for broadcasting on TV, it would be technically difficult to condense the content into 30 seconds as the video was very content-rich. Therefore, it was unfeasible to broadcast the video on TV.)

- (ii) LCSD's Leisure Managers of various districts would work with the DCs to explore ways to enhance at the community level the publicity for and promotion of fitness walking tracks in the districts. She quoted the example of a publicity campaign for the fitness track in the Central and Western district organised in 2011, in which district councillors led members of the public to do fitness walking exercise on the fitness walking track in Sun Yat Sen Memorial Park;
- (iii) She commented that the LCSD had set up 33 fitness walking tracks mainly to promote fitness walking and encourage the public to do fitness walking exercise anytime anywhere according to needs, eventually enhancing their physical fitness and health. She elaborated on the selection process of the 33 fitness walking tracks for Members' reference. Most of the fitness walking tracks were found in LCSD venues or passed through facilities in the districts and each section had been carefully assessed by the Physical Fitness Association of Hong Kong, China to ensure all were suitable for fitness walking exercise for people of different ages. Each fitness walking track had panels providing information on a walking route, the total length of the track, physical fitness and energy consumption, etc. and there were milestones at appropriate points

along the track for users' reference. She added that Bowen Road was a road outside the purview of the LCSD. Therefore, other road users or maintenance vehicles might enter or leave the road. People who did fitness walking exercise had to pay attention when using the relevant road sections.

- (k) Mr David YIP, the Vice-chairman said that the Central and Western District Recreation and Sports Association had organised in August 2011 the "Opening Ceremony of the Central and Western District Sports Festival cum Launching Ceremony of Central and Western District Fitness Walking Track" under the theme of fitness walking, attracting an attendance of over 1 000 and creating a boisterous atmosphere. Mr YIP commented that the fitness walking track in Central and Western district was so popular among the public that some women's groups and elderly centres requested information on the track for reference. He said that the relevant information had been uploaded to the website of the Central and Western District Recreation and Sports Association and thanked LCSD staff for their assistance. According to him, the DC and the LCSD would erect in due course panels providing information on walking distance and energy consumption along the fitness track from Sun Yat Sen Memorial Park to Central Pier 7 for users' reference.
- (l) The Chairman said that he had attended the fitness walking play-in held in the Ma On Shan Promenade on 7 August and the Launching Ceremony of the Central and Western District Fitness Walking Track. He thought that the scenery of the two fitness walking tracks was beautiful and agreed that promotion work should be stepped up to encourage the public to do fitness walking exercise actively. Furthermore, as the promotional video on "M" Mark events shown in the Hong Kong Open received enthusiastic response from the public, he suggested encouraging the national sports associations (NSAs) to play the promotional video during major events or competitions so as to enhance promotion.
- (m) Dr Regina CHING of the Department of Health (DH) suggested promoting the fitness walking tracks to foreign visitors, which would in turn provide them with an opportunity to admire the beautiful scenery of Hong Kong and use the facilities.

Item 3: School Sports Coordinator Pilot Scheme (CSC Paper 6/11)

5.1 The Chairman invited Ms LAM Sau-ha of the LCSD to introduce the content of CSC Paper 6/11 by PowerPoint.

5.2 Ms LAM Sau-ha introduced the content of CSC Paper 6/11. The Chairman invited Members to give their views on the paper.

5.3 Members gave their views on the paper. Their views and responses were summarised as follows:

- (a) Mr Daniel CHAM suggested increasing the quota of School Sports Coordinators (SSCs) and wished to learn more about the selection criteria of the Pilot Scheme. Currently, the Scheme's expenditure was estimated at \$300,000, of which about \$110,000 was earmarked for organising programmes, employing coaches/temporary staff and acquiring sports equipment. Given the costliness of some sports equipment, he proposed designating most of the expenditure to organising programmes to help schools promote a sporting culture. To that end, he also recommended that the SSCs assist in training school teams and staging inter-school competitions.
- (b) Professor LEUNG Mee-lee distributed a booklet on the Hong Kong Athletes Career and Education Programme (HKACEP) for other Members' reference, and shared with them the views of the Sports Federation & Olympic Committee of Hong Kong, China (SF&OC) on the Pilot Scheme. She said that the HKACEP, offered by the SF&OC to local athletes nominated by their respective NSAs, had a wider scope than the Pilot Scheme, which would cover only athletes in the 15 elite sports currently supported by the HKSI. She also pointed out that the HKACEP had a mechanism for qualifications assessment. Although she welcomed the increase in support for retired athletes under the Pilot Scheme, she was worried that there would be a drain on talent if the specialities and interests of the SSCs were not in line with the sporting cultures of the participating schools. According to her, between 2005 and October 2011 some 60 elite athletes had retired, and there were about one or two athletes retiring every year except that 20 and 10 elite athletes had retired respectively in April 2010 (after the East Asian Games) and April 2011 (after the Asian Games). She suggested that the CSC give thorough consideration to the directions of the Pilot Scheme, such as

whether medical insurance and end-of-contract gratuities should be offered in addition to monthly salaries and Mandatory Provident Fund contributions, and whether the SSCs should be provided with educational opportunities and follow-up programmes. She also urged the CSC to consider the career prospects of the SSCs upon their completion of the Scheme in three years' time.

- (c) Mrs Cecilia WONG was in favour of providing post-retirement support for athletes to encourage more of them to take up sports as a full-time career. Given that the current Pilot Scheme was supposed to be open for application by all government and aided secondary schools in the territory, she wondered if special schools would also be eligible to apply. In view of its pilot nature, she recommended allowing different types of schools to join the Scheme so as to understand the needs of schools. Besides, she shared the concern about the SSCs' career prospects upon their completion of the three-year Pilot Scheme, which in her opinion would have direct implications for athletes' interest in the Scheme. In that regard, she suggested mapping out a way forward with clarity and continuity.
- (d) Mr Raphael TONG proposed that the inflation in the coming three years be taken into account, the proportion of the Pilot Scheme's total expenditure on the SSCs' salaries be capped to allow schools greater flexibility in determining the actual pay levels of the SSCs, and that thorough consideration be given to whether schools could nominate non-HKSI retired athletes to join the Scheme. Furthermore, he recommended extending the Scheme, if it proved successful, to primary schools and private schools so as to improve students' sports standards. Regarding the quota for the Scheme, he suggested increasing it to 20 or 30 as he opined that the Scheme's effectiveness would be more accurately established with a larger quota. As for the additional expenditure that would be incurred in raising the quota, he proposed that consideration be given to using the Elite Athletes Development Fund of \$7 billion, the establishment of which had been announced in the 2011-12 Policy Address.
- (e) Dr Simon YEUNG supported the Pilot Scheme, which he said had to be a long-term one from the athletes' perspective. In addition to asking whether the job title currently proposed was a sustainable one, he suggested, as an improvement to the Scheme, that clear requirements and

qualifications be laid down for the positions. With regard to the proposed quota increase, he was worried that, given the limited number of athletes retiring each year, there might not be enough retired athletes to support the full implementation of the Scheme if the quota was raised.

- (f) Mr LIU Ah-chuen said that the Student Sports Activities Co-ordinating Sub-Committee (SSACS) had discussed the issues mentioned above and come up with suggestions, namely adjusting the SSCs' salaries according to yearly inflation, and providing serving SSCs with educational opportunities as well as study allowances to prepare them for career development upon their completion of the three-year Pilot Scheme. Moreover, it was equally important that the SSCs' sports specialities and networks be in line with the sports development of the participating schools. He also proposed that a long-term development strategy be devised, that an assessment timetable be put in place to review the effectiveness of the Scheme regularly, and that thorough consideration be given to mapping out the way forward. Furthermore, to facilitate the smooth introduction of the Scheme, he suggested providing schools with clear guidelines for completing the proposals.
- (g) Mrs Stella LAU remarked that the primary purpose of the Pilot Scheme was to provide an opportunity for retired athletes to join the workforce. Because of its pilot nature, the Scheme might not be able to offer comprehensive employment protection or cater to every need at the current stage. She believed that the athletes had to rely on their own efforts. Regarding the HKSI, which would recommend candidates for appointment as SSCs under the Scheme, she thought that it should provide the candidates with pre-service training to equip them for the employment market. She also said that the participating schools should understand that the SSCs did not have a strong academic foundation and should try to help the SSCs instead of setting standards and requirements that were too high for them. She urged the CSC not to set a very high starting point for the Scheme.
- (h) Mr Philip LI said that the quota for the Pilot Scheme should not be too large and should ideally range between 10 and 15, adding that the Scheme should be regularly reviewed so as to enhance its effectiveness. He commented that the writing proficiency of some retired athletes might not be satisfactory and that the currently proposed pay level of the SSCs was already very attractive. As to whether the SSCs and the physical

education teachers of the participating schools could work together well, he regarded that as a challenge, saying that time would be needed for observation and improvement of the implementation process. Besides, he asked whether schools that promoted sports other than the 15 elite sports supported by the HKSI would be given flexibility under the Scheme to select their own SSCs to assist in the promotion of such sports.

- (i) Professor LEUNG Mee-lee agreed that schools should be allowed to nominate retired athletes in other sports to join the Pilot Scheme and that the Scheme should be open for application by special schools and primary schools, in order to meet schools' needs and stimulate students' interest in sports. In addition, considering it essential for the SSCs to have dedication and good promotion skills, she suggested that the HKSI strengthen its training of the candidates in those two areas. Nevertheless, she urged the CSC to think through the Pilot Scheme before launching it as she thought that comprehensive vocational and educational support was currently available for athletes under the HKACEP.
- (j) Ms LAM Sau-ha of the LCSD thanked Members for their valuable views. She provided the following additional information to address some Members' concerns.
 - (i) Regarding the selection criteria of the Pilot Scheme, each interested school would be required to submit a sports development strategy proposal for the coming three years. A panel of representatives from the Home Affairs Bureau (HAB), the LCSD, the Education Bureau (EDB) and the HKSI would assess applications from schools according to their sports development plans and targets (for example the number of students to benefit from the Scheme, the achievability of the targets, and the sustainability of the plans). She added that the selection mechanism and criteria were currently being fine-tuned;
 - (ii) Regarding the other expenses (such as the acquisition costs of sports equipment) of the Pilot Scheme, flexible adjustments could be made in response to the needs of the participating schools. She said that during the three-year implementation period, reviews would be conducted to evaluate the Scheme's effectiveness and appropriate adjustments would be introduced to help the SSCs and the schools make a success of the Scheme;

- (iii) Under the Pilot Scheme's initial proposal, the HKSI would recommend athletes from its 15 elite sports as candidates for appointment as SSCs. As another channel for retired athletes to receive vocational training, the Scheme was in addition to, rather than in conflict with, the HKACEP offered by the SF&OC;
- (iv) It was believed that the HAB would explore, subject to the availability of resources, the provision of study allowances for serving SSCs to help them prepare for future careers. The working group concerned would later provide a template and guidelines to help schools prepare their proposals.
- (k) Mrs Stella LAU understood that the Pilot Scheme was intended to provide vocational training for the young athletes of the HKSI, who might be unable to complete their education because of their full-time training at the HKSI, whereas the HKACEP of the SF&OC was meant to offer vocational and educational support to elite athletes. In her opinion, the two programmes should not be compared against the same yardstick as they had different target groups.
- (l) Professor LEUNG Mee-lee said that the HKACEP was targeted at elite athletes who were of relatively older age and had achieved some success in sports. She would like to know which age group of retired athletes would be eligible for the Pilot Scheme.
- (m) Ms Regina CHAN of the HKSI said that currently under the HKSI Athletes Scholarship Programme, each NSA recommended suitable athletes to receive elite training at the HKSI. Those athletes came from different groups, including a small number of full-time athletes who did not opt for conventional education, a number of part-time athletes who attended mainstream schools, and a number of full-time athletes who fully concentrated on training to pursue excellence. According to her, the HKSI, the LCSD, the HAB and the EDB had agreed, when discussing the introduction of the Pilot Scheme, that the head coaches of the HKSI's 15 elite sports would recommend athletes who had already retired or would retire in March 2012 to be candidates for appointment as SSCs. It was believed that such candidates would be aged 18 or above. According to the initial proposal, those nominees would have to achieve elite score point 3 or above with more than four years of sporting experience. Although she acknowledged that the nominees' sports specialities should

ideally be in line with the sports development of the participating schools, she said that some athletes could also contribute to the sporting culture of the schools with knowledge and experience other than that of their sports specialities. The athletes would be allowed to make their own choices in due course; meanwhile the HKSI would try to understand their job expectations and provide them with informative information regarding the selection. She considered it a challenge to strike a balance between the expectations of the athletes and the schools, but believed that the Pilot Scheme was a key starting point to provide support for athletes and that time would be needed to refine its content. In the long run, the Scheme would be beneficial not only to the career development of retired athletes, but also to the promotion of sports in schools and the fostering of a strong sporting culture in the community.

- (n) The Director of Leisure and Cultural Services (DLCS) said that as the Pilot Scheme was a win-win for both retired athletes (who would have a transitional learning period to prepare for employment) and the participating schools (which would receive a helping hand to promote sports on campus), it should be considered from the perspectives of those two parties. Currently the implementation details of the Scheme were yet to be improved. She thanked Members for their valuable views, which would be referred to the SSACS for in-depth study with a view to fine-tuning the relevant details of the Scheme. She hoped that the HAB could make available more resources so as to increase the quota for the Scheme and improve the remuneration package for the SSCs. In order that the effective implementation of the Scheme would not be hampered by the vastly different expectations of the athletes and the schools, she said that it was incumbent upon the HKSI to provide the candidates with pre-service training and to help them adjust their mindset. Considering the Scheme to be beneficial to both the athletes and the schools in the long run, she hoped that the two parties would not be placed in confrontational positions and that the Scheme, as a worthwhile initiative, would not be thwarted by worries and concerns.
- (o) Mr George YIP suggested providing clear guidelines for schools and athletes in order to allay their concerns and ensure the smooth implementation of the Pilot Scheme.
- (p) Mrs Cecilia WONG reiterated her hope that the CSC would consider allowing special schools to join the Pilot Scheme, given that the details of

the Scheme were yet to be finalised.

- (q) Mr Benjamin MOK of the HAB said that the Government always attached great significance to the retirement arrangements of elite athletes, and that both the SF&OC and the HKSI were key stakeholders in that regard. The HKSI, currently with about 170 full-time athletes, provided some retiring athletes with a range of support measures relating to their educational, vocational and personal development, whereas the SF&OC also played a part in delivering relevant support. Describing the Pilot Scheme as a win-win, he said that it would not only enhance retired athletes' career prospects, but also allow their expertise, experience and networks to be put to good use in helping schools promote a sporting culture. He added that the Scheme would be subvented by the Arts and Sport Development Fund, into which the Legislative Council's Finance Committee had earlier approved an injection of \$3 billion. Of the sum, \$1.5 billion had been designated as seed money for sports development, which should in turn be able to provide reasonable resources for the Pilot Scheme. He hoped that through implementing the Scheme, a better understanding of the needs of athletes and schools would be achieved for the purpose of devising the way forward.
- (r) Mr Henry CHAN supported the Pilot Scheme and suggested increasing its quota to 18 so that each of the 18 districts could have one SSC.

5.4 The Chairman thanked Members for their support for the Pilot Scheme and their valuable views, which he hoped the SSACS could take into detailed consideration when refining the Scheme.

Item 4: Any Other Business

6.1 Mr Raphael TONG provided for other Members' reference a news report on sudden deaths caused by cardiovascular disease during exercise, successful cases of using automated external defibrillators (AEDs) to save lives from suspected heart attacks, as well as information on AEDs. He advocated the installation of the devices across the territory, describing them as easy to operate, inexpensive and life-saving in emergencies. He opined that AEDs were available at only a few places in Hong Kong, whereas overseas they could be commonly found in airports and other public venues. Given that currently all MTR stations were equipped with AEDs (totalling more than 230) and that the LCSD had introduced the devices to its swimming pools, he recommended that the LCSD extend the provision of AEDs to other land-based recreation and sports facilities. He also suggested

that the HAB encourage the installation of AEDs in schools, community libraries, museums, shopping arcades managed by The Link Management Limited as well as government offices that were open to the public. He hoped that the CSC would consider his proposal.

6.2 DLCS thanked Mr TONG for his suggestions. She said that at the heads of departments' meeting held in 2010, the Fire Services Department (FSD) had urged heads of departments to consider installing AEDs at suitable places so that cardiac resuscitation could be performed whenever necessary. In response, the LCSD had introduced AEDs to its 39 swimming pools, five water sports centres and 36 bathing beaches before the commencement of the bathing season in March 2011. The devices were operated by on-duty lifeguards, most of whom had completed relevant training. She said that the LCSD's plan for the second phase was to extend the provision of AEDs steadily to its 253 land-based leisure venues (either with active facilities or with high utilisation rates), including sports centres, sports grounds and major parks, where the devices would be installed at publicly accessible locations. Members of the public who had been trained in the use of AEDs would be encouraged to give first aid to people in need. The devices would also be gradually introduced to cultural venues. The installation of AEDs at the land-based leisure venues was scheduled to commence in May 2012, when a large-scale publicity campaign would also be launched. She said that from April to November 2011, the use of AEDs at LCSD aquatic venues had been recorded on 14 occasions, on one of which it had proved necessary to administer electric shock treatment. She encouraged interested Members to attend relevant training offered by the FSD, the Hong Kong St. John Ambulance and the Hospital Authority so that they could deliver emergency first aid to people in need.

6.3 Mr HO Chun-ip of the EDB reported that AEDs had already been added to the recommended list of first aid items under the Safety Guidelines on Physical Education updated on 1 September 2011, and that all schools across the territory had been notified of the recommendation to install AEDs on campus. He said that the recommendation had been warmly welcomed by principals and teachers at a briefing held in May 2011 on the updates to the Safety Guidelines. Some teachers had also suggested that sports centres be equipped with ice makers so that people who suffered from sprains during sporting activities could receive cold therapy.

6.4 Dr Regina CHING of the DH pointed out that adults were usually more prone to heart disease than teenagers and that the former's greater susceptibility was related to unhealthy lifestyle habits, such as lack of physical exercise. She remarked that newspapers tended to attract readers' attention by selectively covering newsworthy stories such as sudden deaths after physical activity. In her opinion, such an inclination would mislead people into associating physical activity with sudden death. Nevertheless, she still

encouraged the public to exercise regularly in order to maintain heart health.

6.5 The Chairman said that given the increasing prevalence of heart disease in Hong Kong, he strongly supported the installation of AEDs on campus in the hope that the devices could be made available in schools throughout the territory.

Adjournment of Meeting

7.1 The Chairman said that the present meeting was the last one of the current CSC. He thanked Members for their active participation and valuable views in the year past. He hoped that Members would continue to support and promote community sports in Hong Kong in the future.

7.2 The meeting was adjourned at 12:40 pm.

Community Sports Committee Secretariat
December 2011