Notes of the 18th Meeting of Business Liaison Group (Theme Parks)

Date: 9 January 2015 (Friday)

Time: 9:30 am

Venue: Conference Room 7, G/F., Central Government Offices, Tamar

Chairman: Mr CHAN Wah Chan, Head, Business Facilitation Division,

Economic Analysis and Business Facilitation Unit

Trade attendees:

Hong Kong International Theme Parks Limited

Ms Catherine CHIU Manager, Government Relations
Mr Tommy FUNG Manager, Development & Integration
Mr John KWONG Manager, Facility Asset Management

Ocean Park Corporation

Mr Arthur WONG Project Development Director

Mr Kenneth LAU Operations Director

Mr CF CHEUNG Facilities Maintenance Director

Ms Gillian CHO Assistant Corporate Services Manager

Observers:

Ngong Ping 360 Limited

Mr William CHEUNG Head of Services Operations

Mr Alan CHOW Facilities Manager

Madame Tussauds

Ms Kelly MAK General Manager Mr Anson CHUNG Facility Director

Peak Tower

Mr Joseph SIN Head of Engineering & Operation

Hong Kong Sky Deck Limited

Mr Sanny FUNG Operations Manager

Mr Ivan LAW Assistant Operations Manager

Hong Kong Observation Wheel

Mr Kenneth MAK Senior Architect

Mr Cedric TAM Senior Construction Manager

Government representatives:

Buildings Department (BD)

Mr William POON Senior Project Officer Mr Kelvin WONG Building Surveyor

Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD)

Mr Lawrence LAW Senior Engineer

Mr Raymond HUNG Engineer

Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD)

Ms WONG Yi Mui Superintendent

Water Supplies Department (WSD)

Mr Willaim TAM Senior Engineer

Mr Patrick HO Engineer
Mr Davis WAN Engineer

Economic Analysis and Business Facilitation Unit (EABFU)

Ms Christie LAM Chief Management Services Officer (Secretary)

Mr Robert CHU Management Services Officer

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1. **The Chairman** welcomed all to the meeting, particularly the participants from Hong Kong Observation Wheel, who attended the meeting for the first time as observers.

Agenda 1 – Confirmation of notes of the last meeting

2. The notes of the last meeting posted at the Business Facilitation Initiatives website (http://www.gov.hk/en/theme/bf/pdf/TP_BLG_17_Notes.pdf) were confirmed without amendments.

Agenda 2 – Briefing by Departments

Validation scheme for unauthorised signboards

3. **Mr William POON** of BD briefed the trade on "Validation scheme for unauthorised signboards under the Signboard Control System" with the presentation slides at **Annex 1**. Mr POON said the scheme was implemented on 2 September 2013. For unauthorised signboards in existence or completed before 2 September 2013 and complying with the technical specifications for prescribed building or building works under the Building (Minor Works) Regulation, signboard owners might retain them for continued use after inspection, strengthening (if required) and certification of their structural safety by a prescribed building professional and/or prescribed registered contractor to the Building Authority (i.e. the Buildings Department). The unauthorised signboards thus validated could be retained for five years. During the 5-year validity period, BD would not take enforcement actions against

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the validated signboards but the signboard owner should maintain the signboard properly in a structurally safe condition. If a validated signboard was not properly maintained or became dangerous, BD might take prompt enforcement action to require for its removal. The BD would take enforcement action on signboards not joining or not eligible for joining the scheme. Mr POON distributed at the meeting a bi-lingual pamphlet on the scheme for reference of the participants. He also added that the trade could browse BD's website or install the mobile App "MWCS - Quick Guide for Minor Works" to access information about the scheme.

4. **Mr Kenneth MAK** of Hong Kong Observation Wheel enquired about the approving authority for signboards installed at outdoor mechanical equipment (e.g. signboards hanging at outdoor escalators). **Mr POON** explained that in general if the signboards were part of a private building, BD would be the responsible authority. For signboards that were part of the mechanical equipment/plant, they might be outside the jurisdiction of BD.

Proper installation of fresh water cooling towers for air-conditioning systems

- 5. **Mr Patrick HO** of WSD gave a briefing on the subject with the presentation slides at **Annex 2**. Mr HO said that the presentation was a joint promotion of EMSD and WSD on proper installation of fresh water cooling towers (FWCTs). Under the FWCT Scheme, EMSD was responsible for vetting of the design and installation of FWCTs, while WSD was responsible for giving permission for use of water supply and approval of plumbing connection from the waterworks to FWCTs. He drew the trade's attention to EMSD's five basic design and installation requirements and WSD's three water supply requirements relevant to FWCTs as listed in slides 5 and 6 of Annex 2. Mr HO explained that FWCTs could be sources of spreading Legionnaires' disease. There was health concern on their use if they were not properly designed, installed, operated and maintained.
- 6. **Mr HO** said that EMSD and WSD were jointly preparing publicity materials and WSD would set up a thematic webpage on proper installation of FWCTs, which would be available around February 2015. Trade members would be informed when the materials and website were available.
- 7. **Mr CF CHEUNG** of Ocean Park asked how FWCTs that were installed over thirty years ago and might not meet the prevailing requirements should be handled. **Mr Lawrence LAW** of EMSD welcomed Mr CHEUNG to contact EMSD after the meeting to discuss the issue which might be site specific in nature. **Mr William TAM** of WSD said that the trade should install FWCTs in compliance with the

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requirements specified under the FWCT Scheme. If the conditions did not allow for proper installation of FWCTs, he suggested that the trade could consider other types of air-conditioning systems.

Agenda 3 – New Items

Clarification on the need to apply for permit/licence for installing popcorn machines at theme park premises

- 8. **The Secretary** said that some theme parks/attraction points were planning to install popcorn machines at their premises. They were concerned on whether they had to apply for a permit/licence from FEHD for this purpose.
- 9. **Ms WONG Yi Mui** of FEHD replied that a food factory licence would not be required if popcorn was prepared or processed in a hygienic manner and by a machine of a type approved by FEHD. The trade could visit the department's website for the popcorn machine models that had been approved (http://www.fehd.gov.hk/tc_chi/howtoseries/doc/bafseis_popcorn.htm).

Date of next meeting

10. **The Chairman** thanked all for their attendance and active participation. The Secretary would inform trade members of the date of the next meeting in due course.

Economic Analysis and Business Facilitation Unit January 2015