

**(Unclassified version with commercially sensitive or confidential information  
and Members' names removed)**

**BDC 17/2020 (Revised)**

**Revised Minutes of the 72<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the  
Business Development Committee  
of the Hong Kong Productivity Council  
held at 3:00p.m. on Tuesday, 21 July 2020  
by Microsoft Teams**

**Present:** Chairman – Mr. Emil Yu Chen-on, JP

Members – Mr. Mohamed D. Butt  
Miss Kathy Chan Nap-sze (Assistant  
Commissioner for Innovation and  
Technology (Funding Schemes),  
representing Ms. Rebecca Pun Ting-ting,  
JP, Commissioner for Innovation and  
Technology)  
Ms. Clara Chan Yuen-shan, MH  
Mr. Felix Chow Bok-hin  
Mr. Steve Chuang Tzu-hsiung  
Mr. Paul Poon Wai-yin  
Prof. Tam Kar-yan, MH

**In Attendance from HKPC:**

Dr. Lawrence Cheung	Chief Innovation Officer
Mr. Edmond Lai	Chief Digital Officer
Ms. Eliza Ng	Chief People and Culture Officer
Ms. Vivian Lin	Chief Financial Officer
Ms. Gillian Luk	Senior Manager, Council Secretariat
Ms. Olivia Poon	Manager, Council Secretariat

## **Special Arrangement for the Meeting**

The Chairman said that in light of the coronavirus outbreak, the Business Development Committee (BDC) meeting was held via Microsoft Teams application. He thanked Members for joining the meeting and their support of the special arrangement.

## **Declaration of Interest**

The Chairman reminded Members to make declaration before the meeting should they observe any direct/pecuniary interest in any matter to be discussed at the meeting.

### **I. Confirmation of Minutes (BDC 9/2020 Revised)**

1. The Revised Draft Minutes of the 71<sup>st</sup> Business Development Committee (BDC) meeting held on 17 March 2020 had been circulated to Members and there were no further requests for amendments. The Revised Draft Minutes were taken as read and confirmed and the Secretariat would arrange signing of the Minutes by the Chairman.

### **II. Three-year Strategic Plan of HKPC for 2021/22-2023/24 (BDC 10/2020)**

2. Invited by the Chairman,                      briefed Members on the Three-year Strategic Plan for 2021/22-2023/24 (Strategic Plan).                      said that the Strategic Plan developed in 2019, anchoring on the “Living” and “Digital” pillars with 12 focus areas, was still relevant and would continue to be in force in the coming 3 years to promote re-industrialisation, smart manufacturing and smart living. In pursuing the strategic directions in the Strategic Plan, HKPC would maintain momentum to support SMEs. HKPC had taken a series of measures to support SMEs, like the SME ReachOut which was well received. In support of the Government’s relief measures to help SMEs meet challenges during the epidemic, HKPC had taken up more secretariat projects for Government funding schemes which would run from one to several years.

3. Continuing with his presentation,                      said that HKPC was mindful of the

need to promote productivity enhancement at the same time. In this connection, HKPC would also devote attention to commercialisation to draw wider application of homegrown technologies. Another focus point would be the Hong Kong Industrial Artificial Intelligence and Robotics Centre (FLAIR) scheduled to start operation in the third quarter of 2020/21 to support related technology development to achieve advanced manufacturing. HKPC would also keep in view the increasing industry interest in relocating production facilities to ASEAN countries to cushion the fallout of trade dispute and provide technical support services when needed.

4. then briefed Members on the technology roadmap of HKPC for the coming years encompassing four major areas, namely smart city, smart manufacturing, green technology and smart enterprises. said that technology trends would be closely monitored to ensure the relevance of technology development efforts.

5. In reply to about HKPC's new measures to accelerate commercialisation to create more impact on the industry and society, said that a Commercialisation and Business Development Unit was set up in July 2020, led by a Principal Consultant, to spearhead the commercialisation of inhouse technologies. In particular, an overall review of technology solutions developed in recent years had been conducted to identify vertical markets for focused promotion. TechDive briefing sessions had been held since late 2019 to promote commercialisation-ready technologies via online presentations. It was envisaged that the more coordinated approach would drive wider application of HKPC's technologies.

6. After discussion, Members agreed to recommend for the Council's approval the Three-year Strategic Plan of HKPC for 2021/22-2023/24 as outlined at Appendix 2 of the paper.

### **III. Update on Follow-up Actions on Reports of Director of Audit and Public Accounts Committee (PAC) of Legislative Council on HKPC (BDC 11/2020)**

7. Members received a presentation by on the progress of follow-up actions on the reports of the Director of Audit and Public Accounts Committee (PAC)

up to end-May 2020.

#### **IV. Update on Establishment of Hong Kong Industrial Artificial Intelligence and Robotics Centre (FLAIR) (BDC 12/2020)**

9. Members noted the progress in setting up the Hong Kong Industrial Artificial Intelligence and Robotics Centre (FLAIR) presented by . This included the signing of funding agreement with the Government in April 2020, submission of the 2020/21 annual plan to the Innovation and Technology Commission (ITC) in July 2020 and staff recruitment with the staff in post to work in the HKPC office, pending completion of on-site fitting out in September 2020 for FLAIR to start operation in October 2020.

13. Members noted the update.

#### **V. Report on HKPC's Mainland Subsidiaries (BDC 13/2020)**

14. Members noted presentation on the business progress of the Mainland subsidiaries for the period between October 2019 and June 2020 along 6 themes as follows:

- (a) TURN Programmes;
- (b) Environmental Services;
- (c) Training Business;
- (d) Smart Manufacturing and Robotics;
- (e) Service Management and Enhancement for Enterprises; and
- (f) Support to Local Governments to Promote Industrial Innovation.

#### **VI. Report on Commercial Research and Development (CRD) (BDC 14/2020)**

15. Members noted the progress of CRD projects as of 31 May 2020 as presented by .

16. Members also noted that HKPC was in the process of reviewing the Corporate CRD Fund as part of the exercise to scale up the commercialisation efforts for HKPC’s technologies. Other commercialisation efforts included the setting up of the Commercialisation and Business Development Unit and periodic TechDive sessions to promote commercialisation-ready solutions.

17. said that while it had been the focus of HKPC to provide tailor-made solutions for enterprises to address their specific needs, efforts would be stepped up to expand the breadth and depth of HKPC’s products and solutions to help bring more value to the community. A case in point was the “kNOw Touch” contactless elevator panel recently developed by HKPC to lessen the risk of coronavirus transmission. thanked ITC for granting funding approval under the Public Sector Trial Scheme of the Innovation and Technology Fund for HKPC to trial “kNOw Touch” to promote its application.

(A video on “kNOw touch” which was available for viewing on YouTube was shown to Members.)

18. said that “kNOw Touch” was a good example to illustrate that HKPC’s technology solutions could benefit a wide segment of the society.

19. In response to about setting key performance indicators for HKPC’s commercialisation efforts, said that 4 KPIs served the purpose currently. They were “number of patents awarded”, “number of new projects using HKPC’s patents”, “number of on-going projects using HKPC’s patents” and “income generated from commercialisation of patents”. With commercialisation and innovation ingrained in the corporate culture and mindset, staff members were well aware of the need to innovate and they attached great importance to developing products and technologies meeting industry and society needs.

20. Members noted the update.

## **VII. Report on Projects for Government Funding Schemes (February – May 2020) (BDC 15/2020)**

21. Members noted that between February and May 2020, 12 projects with HKPC’s involvement were approved for \$24.2M under government funding schemes as follows:

(a) Innovation and Technology Fund (ITF): 10 projects were approved for

\$19.6M; and

- (b) Trade and Industrial Organisation Support Fund (TSF): 2 projects were approved for \$4.6M.

22. Members also noted HKPC's secretariat support to 8 government funding schemes during the period , including:

- (a) BUD Fund;
- (b) Cleaner Production Partnership Programme (CPPP);
- (c) Retail Technology Adoption Assistance Scheme for Manpower Demand Management (ReTAAS);
- (d) Recycling Fund – Enterprise Support Programme and Industry Support Programme;
- (e) Chinese Medicine Development Fund;
- (f) Patent Application Grant;
- (g) Local Mask Production Subsidy Scheme; and
- (h) Distance Business Programme (D-Biz Programme).

23. referred to the D-Biz Programme which was launched in May 2020 under the Anti-epidemic Fund of the Government. With the Government earmarking additional \$1,000M for the programme to benefit more enterprises, HKPC had started a new round of promotion campaign comprising roundtables with service providers, webinars and radio promotion.

### **VIII. Final Performance Review of Completed ITF Projects (BDC 16/2020)**

25. Members noted the final performance review of 5 completed ITF projects, as follows:

- (a) Development of an Intelligent Cloud Based Smart Interactive Children Education Robot System;
- (b) Biodegradation of Aniline Compounds and Enhanced Color Removal for Textile Dyeing Wastewater through Cultivation and Immobilization of Intensified Microbial Strains in the Existing Wastewater Treatment Process;
- (c) Development of Smart Inter-operable Bra Cup Molding System with Autonomous Production;
- (d) Trial: Core Technology Platform of Image Processing and Recognition for Driver Assistance Systems; and

- (e) Smart Safety Seat Belt with Bio-Feedback System for Driver Drowsiness Detection and Intervention.

## **IX. Any Other Business**

### **(A) Inno Space 3-year Business Plan**

26. Members received a presentation by \_\_\_\_\_ on the 3-year business plan of Inno Space for 2020/21- 2022/23 which aimed to open new avenues of income for Inno Space to move closer to full cost recovery in 3 years' time (Appendix).

27. Under the plan, Inno Space would place the strategic focus on supporting start-ups and STEM education in Hong Kong. Inno Space would form maker space and start-up alliance to organise training courses and start-up events and promote cross membership benefits. In addition, Inno Space would roll out new STEM support services in 2020/21 in partnership with STEM Network schools and makerspace alliance. To raise awareness, Inno Space would launch a marketing campaign on Technology & Technical Education (TechEd) in August 2020<sup>1</sup>. The campaign would comprise technology exhibitions, experience zones, makerspace and TechEd workshops.

### **(B) Consultancy Study on Socio-economic Impact Assessment of HKPC Services**

28. Members noted the update by \_\_\_\_\_ that a consultancy study on the socio-economic impact of HKPC's services was in progress. The aims of the study were to review the role of HKPC in creating added value to local industries and enterprises and to identify a methodology to measure HKPC's socio-economic impacts.

### **(C) Green Employment Scheme**

29. \_\_\_\_\_ informed Members that HKPC was commissioned by the Environmental Protection Department to serve as the secretariat of the Green Employment Scheme which was open for application in June 2020. The programme aimed to subsidise private companies and suitable organisations to employ graduates from environment-related fields, with a view to nurturing talents for meeting needs on various environmental fronts.

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<sup>1</sup> Event postponed subsequently due to the pandemic

**(D) Appointment of Mentors for ITF Projects**

30. Members agreed to appoint \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ as mentors of the following two ITF projects respectively:

- (a) Development of a Laminated Fluidized Foaming and Shelf Life Prediction Technology for Production of Degradable, Light Weight and Thermo Insulation Plastic Disposable Products; and
- (b) STEM Education in Robot Coding and Create a World Record of Mass Programming.

**(E) Attendance Record**

31. Members noted their attendance record for 2020 as circulated together with the meeting agenda and papers by email on 14 July 2020 and shown at the meeting. The Chairman reminded Members to try their best to attend future meetings.

**X. Date of Next Meeting**

32. It was agreed that the next meeting would be held on 13 November 2020 at 3 p.m. tentatively.

33. There being no other business, the meeting was closed at 4:20 p.m.