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8 December 2017

Legislative Council Secretariat  
Legislative Council  
Legislative Council Complex  
1 Legislative Council Road  
Central, Hong Kong  
(Attn: Mr Keith Wong)

Dear Mr Wong,

**Establishment Subcommittee**  
**Follow-up to the Meeting on 8 November 2017**

Thank you for your letter of 9 November 2017. The supplementary information requested by the Establishment Subcommittee at its meeting on 8 November 2017, relating to the proposed creation of a permanent Chief Landscape Architect post in the Architectural Services Department, is set out in the following paragraphs.

- (a) All members of the Tree Management Office (TMO) of the Greening, Landscape and Tree Management Section under the Development Bureau (DEVB), including the Head of Tree Management Office, Assistant Secretary, Tree Management Officer, Assistant Tree Management Officer, Senior Field Officer and Field Officer, have professional Certified Arborist qualification awarded by the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA). They also possess other professional arboricultural qualifications, such as Tree Risk Assessment Qualification (TRAQ) awarded by the ISA in the USA, Certificate in Professional Tree Inspection awarded by LANTRA

Awards in the UK or professional membership of the Arboricultural Association in the UK. Apart from arboricultural qualifications, they also have extensive knowledge in tree science (e.g. integrated plant pest and disease management, plant geography, ecological category study, and greenhouse cultivation and propagation management) and practical experience in various areas, including tree risk assessment, Brown Root Rot Disease management and tree care. The TMO will continue to give policy steer on tree management, formulate standards and technical guidelines, and provide tree management departments with professional support and assistance in managing their tree assets.

- (b) The Government has reviewed the current deployment and training arrangements for tree management staff. We will create dedicated tree management posts in the Forestry Officer Grade in the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) for deployment to tree management bureaux and departments. The Forestry Officer Grade is centrally managed by AFCD. Officers filling these posts will possess arboricultural qualifications. The DEVB is currently liaising with the AFCD on the implementation arrangements.

To nurture a professional workforce capable of providing quality knowledge in tree asset management, stepping up training is of utmost importance. The DEVB has been proactively arranging a variety of training programmes for tree management staff at managerial, supervisory and frontline levels to raise their professional knowledge in arboriculture and enable the departments to perform tree asset management work in a professional and effective manner. Apart from the DEVB, other tree management departments have also organised training courses on arboriculture, such as tree risk management, tree identification, common tree problems, pest and disease control, proper tree care practices and tree care during construction, to improve the overall quality in tree asset management work.

- (c) The Urban Forestry Advisory Panel (UFAP) was established in January 2017. Panel members include eight local and 10 non-local experts from the United States, Canada, Australia, Germany, Mainland China and Macau. The membership list is at **Annex A**. These experts possess rich knowledge and practical experience on different aspects including urban forestry management, arboriculture, tree inspection, urban and restoration ecology,

soil science, landscape architecture, horticulture and geotechnical engineering. Some of them are internationally renowned experts in tree risk assessment and have made significant contributions in introducing urban arboricultural practices to Hong Kong.

The inter-disciplinary panel advises the DEVB on a wide range of urban forestry matters including strategies in relation to urban forestry, encompassing urban arboriculture, urban ecology and urban landscapes; urban forestry applied research and development regime within practical and measurable framework; and policies and measures concerning the promotion of positive capacity building on the urban forestry related industries and trades.

The UFAP meet twice a year, respectively before and after the wet season to capture key learning in preparation for next year's wet season. To enhance the communication with Panel members and working efficiency, three working groups have been formed, namely Urban Arboriculture Working Group, Urban Ecology Working Group and Urban Landscapes Working Group.

The first UFAP meeting was held on 17 March 2017. Discussion items include Brown Root Rot disease (BRRD) management strategy, tree lifecycle planning, training and public education, and the development of a qualifications framework for Arboriculture and Horticulture Industry. The second meeting was just held on 16 November 2017. Discussion items include the strategy of removal of Old and Valuable Trees infected with BRRD and the Study on Street Ecology Strategy for Hong Kong. During the meetings, Panel members shared international, regional and local experiences and practices for reference and guidance.

This year, Panel members have delivered a series of public seminars and symposium for the GLTMS on topics including "Urban Arboriculture — An approach to Tree Identification", "Management Strategies for BRRD", "Tree Biomechanics and Biophysics" and "Urban Forestry Management in Macau". The concepts and strategies of urban forestry and tree asset management were introduced to the general public and relevant stakeholders, including professional bodies, green organisations, academic institutions, member of industry and property management companies which helped enhancing

public understanding of urban forestry. Through experience sharing and exchange of views with Panel members specialising in forest pathology and BRRD, the industry has better understanding of BRRD and its effective management. In addition to regular meetings, we also seek Panel members' advice as and when necessary.

Please let me know if you require further information. I can be reached by phone at 3509 8272 or by e-mail at [joeylam@devb.gov.hk](mailto:joeylam@devb.gov.hk).

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Joey Lam', written in a cursive style.

( Joey Lam )  
for Secretary for Development

Encl

**Urban Forestry Advisory Panel**  
**Non-official Members**

- |     |                                     |  |
|-----|-------------------------------------|--|
| 1.  | Dr Paul BARBER                      | Australia Forest Pathologists  |
| 2.  | Dr Philip G CANNON                  | The US Department of Agriculture Regional Forest Pathologist   |
| 3.  | Ir CHAN Yun-cheung, BBS, JP         | Geotechnical Engineer  |
| 4.  | Professor CHAU Kwai-cheong, BBS, JP | Soil scientist & Adjunct Associate Professor of The Chinese University of Hong Kong                                    |
| 5.  | Ms Cecilia CHEUNG So-mui            | Head of Department of Gardens and Green Areas, Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau, Macau                               |
| 6.  | Mr Kingsley CHOI Lim-cho            | Horticulturalist & Vice President of International Society of Arboriculture Hong Kong Chapter                          |
| 7.  | Mr Mark DUNTEMANN                   | Arborist in the United States of America   |
| 8.  | Mr Kevin ECKERT                     | Arborist in the United States of America & International Society of Arboriculture Credentialing Council Member         |
| 9.  | Dr Billy HAU Chi-hang               | Ecologists & Principal Lecturer in The University of Hong Kong   |
| 10. | Mr Evans IU Po-lung                 | Registered Landscape Architect   |
| 11. | Professor Cecil KONIJNENDIJK        | Urban Forestry Scholar in Canada & Professor of The University of British Columbia                                     |
| 12. | Mr Patrick LAU Hing-tat             | Registered Landscape Architect   |
| 13. | Dr David LAU Tai-wai                | Botanist & Curator of the Shiu-Ying Hu Herbarium in the School of Life Sciences at the Chinese University of Hong Kong |
| 14. | Mr Frank RINN                       | Arborist in Germany  |
| 15. | Mr Ian SHEARS                       | City of Melbourne Urban Sustainability Manager   |
| 16. | Dr WONG Fook-yee                    | Ecologist & Adjunct Professor of the Chinese University of Hong Kong   |
| 17. | Professor XING Fu-wu                | Mainland Horticulturist & Doctoral Advisor of South China Botanical Garden Chinese Academy of Sciences                 |
| 18. | Professor ZHANG Qi-xiang            | Mainland Horticulturist & Professor of Beijing Forestry University   |