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(a) Welcoming Remarks

The Director of Water Supplies (DWS), Professor William C G KO, welcomed members to the First General Meeting of International Water Association Regional Committee of Hong Kong, China (IWAHK) and explained the background to the formation of the IWAHK.

(b) Background

DWS pointed out that upon the formation of the International Water Association (IWA) in 1999 by the merger of the former International Water Services Association (IWSA) and International Association on Water Quality (IAWQ), IWA had requested each member country/region/area to form a single body or committee as the Governing Member to sit on the IWA Board.

DWS said that as most of the countries/regions/areas had formed their national or regional committees by merging their drinking water and wastewater associations, there was a strong drive for establishing a regional committee in Hong Kong to represent Hong Kong, China in the IWA Board.

He reported that the Water Supplies Department (WSD) was a Corporate Member of the former IWSA and had been an IWA Governing Member since its formation in 1999. To take forward the formation of the IWAHK, a preparatory committee was formed in WSD in September 2001. Apart from making the necessary preparation for establishing the IWAHK, the committee had endorsed the application for IWA co-sponsorship for the International Specialised Conference on Creative Water and Wastewater Treatment Technologies for Densely Populated Urban Areas held in September 2002 submitted by Dr. G H CHEN of the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST).

(c) Objectives of Forming IWAHK

DWS reported that the detailed background and proposal of forming the IWAHK together with the draft IWAHK Constitution had been sent to all IWA Members in HKSAR for comment and no comments had been received so far. He stressed that the main objectives of forming IWAHK were :

- To represent the HKSAR under the name of Hong Kong, China to take over from WSD the Governing Membership of the IWA.

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- To represent all interests in the water sector in the HKSAR including industry, government, academia/research, consultants, contractors, manufacturers, suppliers, etc.
- To co-ordinate all IWA activities in the HKSAR.
- To foster the exchange of views and communications between different components of the water sector in the HKSAR.

DWS also hoped that an IWAHK delegation could be formed to participate in the future IWA/IWA-ASPIRE Conferences.

(d) IWAHK Constitution and Formation of IWAHK

DWS highlighted the salient parts of the Constitution as follows:

- The management and administration of the IWAHK shall be undertaken by the Executive Committee (EC), which shall consist of the Chairman, Vice Chairman, a maximum of five Co-opted Members, the Treasurer and the Secretary.
- DWS representing WSD of the HKSAR shall be the Chairman and be responsible for the proper functioning and the finance of the IWAHK.
- The Chairman shall invite IWA Members to serve as Vice Chairman and Co-opted Members and appoint two officers from WSD to be the Treasurer and the Secretary.
- WSD shall also pay on behalf of the IWAHK the Governing Membership fee and IWAHK members are not required to pay any membership fee to IWAHK.

After discussion, the meeting agreed that the IWAHK Constitution be adopted without any amendments. DWS then declared the formation of the IWAHK.

(e) Appointment of Officers of the Executive Committee (EC)

In accordance with Rule No.7 of the IWAHK Constitution, DWS assumed duty as the Chairman. He reported that there were nominations for the Vice Chairman, four Co-opted Members, the Treasurer and the Secretary. The Chairman then invited nomination or volunteer for the vacant Co-opted Member. Mr. Allard NOOY volunteered to join the EC as a Co-opted Member.

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With the unanimous agreement of the members present, the Chairman appointed the following officers of the EC of the IWAHK:

- Vice Chairman – Ir Raymond T K CHEUNG,
- Secretary – Ir P W CHAN
- Treasurer – Ir C C CHAN
- Co-opted Member – Ir K L WONG
- Co-opted Member – Ir Otto L T POON
- Co-opted Member – Professor Howard J C HUANG
- Co-opted Member – Mr. David WONG
- Co-opted Member – Mr. Allard NOOY

(f) Forthcoming IWA and IWA-ASPIRE Events

The Chairman reported that the following IWA and IWA-ASPIRE Conferences/events would be held in 2003 to 2006:

- IWA Governing Board Meeting to be held on 6 September 2003 in Prague, Czech Republic.
- 13th IWA-ASPAC Regional Conference and IWA-ASPIRE Council Meeting to be held from 13 to 17 October 2003 in Cebu, Philippines.
- 2nd IWA Young Researchers Conference to be held from 3 to 4 May 2004 in Wageningen, The Netherlands.
- 2nd IWA Leading-Edge Conference on Water and Wastewater Treatment Technologies to be held from 1 to 4 June 2004 in Prague, Czech Republic.
- 4th IWA World Water Congress to be held from 19 to 24 September 2004 in Marrakech, Morocco.
- 1st IWA-ASPIRE Regional Conference to be held from 5 to 10 June 2005 in Singapore.
- 5th IWA World Water Congress to be held in September 2006 in Beijing, China.

The Chairman reported that WSD would not send a delegation to Prague to attend the IWA Board Meeting in September 2003. The Chairman continued that he and three officers from WSD would attend the 13th IWA-ASPAC Regional Conference and IWA-ASPIRE Council Meeting in Cebu in October 2003. Professor CHEN and Dr. SHANG from HKUST would also join

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the Regional Conference.

The Chairman suggested that IWA Members in the HKSAR should inform the IWAHK Secretariat of their attendance of the future IWA and IWA-ASPIRE Conferences and events so that an IWAHK delegation could be formed. The Chairman also pointed out that if any members would like to join the future IWA Board Meetings or IWA-ASPIRE Council Meetings, they should submit their request to IWAHK Secretariat for consideration and approval.

Any Other Business

(g) Future IWA and IWA-ASPIRE Events in HKSAR

In response to Mr. Allard NOOY's enquiry, the Chairman said that although the IWA International Workshop in 2001 was a great success, WSD had no plan to organize any IWA or IWA-ASPIRE events in the near future. Professor CHEN disclosed that they planned to bid for the hosting of IWA-ASPIRE Regional Conference in future. The Chairman welcomed the idea and assured Professor CHEN that he would have the full support of the IWAHK in bidding the event.

(h) Registration of IWAHK

Ir. Otto POON raised the issue of registration of the IWAHK. The Chairman explained that the issue had been discussed by the preparatory committee and the conclusion was there was no need for IWAHK to register as a non-profit making organization or charitable body because IWAHK was regarded as an attachment to WSD.

Ir. Otto POON opined that the issue should be clarified and sorted out immediately because there would be tax implications for future income or donation to IWAHK. He volunteered to check the set up and arrangement of the local branch of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers (UK).

Ir. Otto POON

The Chairman mentioned that all income and sponsorship of the past IWA/IWSA events organized by WSD had been credited to the accounts of the events and no tax problem had been encountered. He believed that donation would not be sought under the name of IWAHK for IWA or IWA-ASPIRE events in the near future. He, however, requested the Treasurer to seek clarification from relevant authorities and report the outcome at the first EC Meeting to be arranged.

Treasurer

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(i) **Annoucement of Formation of IWAHK**

The Secretary was requested to inform the IWAHQ, all IWA Governing Members and all IWA Members in HKSAR of the formation of IWAHK and the composition of the EC of IWAHK.

Secretary

(j) **Date of Next Meeting**

There being no other business, the meeting ended at 11:30 a.m. The date of the first Executive Committee Meeting would be advised later.