
SHEUNG SHUI TO LOK MA CHAU SPUR LINE

Environmental Committee Meeting

Minutes of Meeting No. 40 held at 10:00am
on Friday, 22nd January 2021,
via Webinar

Present:		
Dr. Xianji Wen	WWF Hong Kong	Member (NGO)
Ms. Karen Barretto	Friends of the Earth (Hong Kong)	Member (NGO)
Mr. Michael Kilburn	The Hong Kong Bird Watching Society	Member (NGO)
Ms. Catherine Leung	Environmental Team	Member (MTR)
Ms. Kenny Yiu	Environmental Team	Member (MTR)
Mr. Peter Choi	Environmental Team	Member (MTR)
Mr. Jerry Shiu	Civil Maintenance	Member (MTR)
Mr. Au Chun-pong	Civil Maintenance	Member (MTR)
Ms. Elizabeth Wu	Ecological Consultant	Member (consultant)
Ms. Zoe Ho	Ecological Consultant	Member (consultant)
Absent with apology:		
Mr. Paul Leader	Ecological Consultant	Member (consultant)
Matthew Wong	Civil Maintenance	Member (MTR)
Attachments		
Annex A	Presentation Material of EC Meeting No. 40	

<u>Item/Description</u>	<u>Action By</u>
<p>December. There were over 700 Great Egret, which was the second highest count at LMC EEA, and 900 Little Egret recorded, which was the highest count on site, in September.</p>	
<p>3.7 <i>A member (consultant)</i> reported that most of the bird nest boxes provided on site were occupied by White-shouldered Starlings, with one occupied by Oriental Magpie Robin. Providing nest boxes would be continued and more nest boxes would be installed in the coming season. Other breeding pairs recorded on site included 10 pairs of Little Grebe, a pair of Cinnamon Bittern, 5 pairs of Common Moorhen, and 2 pairs and a juvenile of Little Ringed Plover.</p>	Noted
<p>3.8 <i>A member (consultant)</i> reported on the globally threatened bird species recorded. Up to four Greater Spotted Eagle were recorded in December, which is the highest count on site. Collared Crow was continuously recorded on site.</p>	Noted
<p>3.9 <i>A member (consultant)</i> reported that Eurasian Otter was recorded on nineteen dates and all records were made at Pond 2. It was recorded regularly using the mammal pass installed at the bottom of the boundary fence. There was continuous high number of Leopard Cat recorded. While the Leopard Cat was mostly recorded at night-time, it was also recorded during day-time on two dates.</p>	Noted
<p>3.10 <i>A member (consultant)</i> reported that all three reptile species were recorded in the year; all recorded with one individual in one occasion. The Reeves' Turtle was recorded during night-time survey, the Chinese Soft-shelled Turtle was captured by the auto-triggered camera, while the Burmese Python was recorded during a day-time survey.</p>	Noted
<p>3.11 <i>A member (consultant)</i> reported on the number of Red-eared Slider recorded. A maximum of six individuals were seen, and the species was recorded in Compartments B and C. Trapping the species was proposed in order to lower the chance of competition with our target Reeves' Turtle and the liaison with AFCD about the trapping was on-going.</p>	Noted
<p>3.12 <i>A member (consultant)</i> reported that there were seven amphibian target species recorded, and the target species Chinese Bullfrog was not recorded. The number of species recorded was within the range in the previous years. An exotic species, American Bullfrog was recorded with one individual in one occasion. Its impact, if any, would be monitored.</p>	Noted
<p>3.13 <i>A member (consultant)</i> reported that 24 dragonfly species were recorded. The number of species recorded was within the range in the previous years.</p>	Noted
<p>3.14 <i>A member (consultant)</i> reported there were eight Yellow-breasted Bunting were recorded in the year. Rice planting would be carried out in autumn to attract Yellow-breasted Bunting.</p>	Noted

<u>Item/Description</u>	<u>Action By</u>
<p>3.15 <i>A member (NGO)</i> enquired if there were any sick/dead birds checked in the LMC EEA given the recent cases of H5N8 avian influenza (AI) cases. <i>A member (consultant)</i> replied that any sick/dead birds were checked on site whenever the surveyors were on site. If sick birds were found, SPCA would be called who would take the birds to KFBG for treatment. If dead birds were found, the government hotline would be called for collecting the birds. As there was no feedback, it was assumed that the birds were tested negative.</p> <p>3.16 <i>A member (NGO)</i> enquired the number of auto-triggered cameras installed on site. <i>A member (consultant)</i> replied there were ten installed.</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p>
<p><u>Any Other Business</u></p> <p>4. <i>A member (MTR)</i> mentioned there would be a series of works to be done in the coming three years, hence, group visits (e.g. more than 10 people) to LMC wetland would not be arranged due to the safety reason. However, if the EC members would like to visit the site, it could be arranged as far as possible. <i>A member (NGO)</i> expressed the concern on the environmental impacts of the works and requested to have a list or briefing of works to be done. MTR will prepare the list of works and share with EC members for information.</p>	<p>MTR/ Consu ltant</p>
<p><u>Date of Next Meeting</u></p> <p>5. The date of the next meeting is to be advised.</p>	<p>MTR</p>

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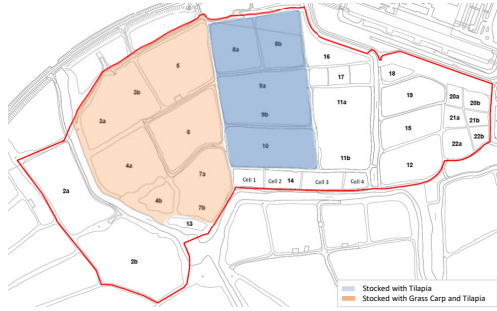
22nd January 2021





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Management Works: Fish Stocking

- 1,012 nos. of Grass Carp and 26,689kg of Tilapia were stocked





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2

Management Works: Pest Management


Dog Trapping

- Dog trapping – none.


Pest Management (Red Imported Fire Ant)

- 366 Red Imported Fire Ant nests were treated with the approved pesticide;
- Red Imported Fire Ant nest treatment using the approved pesticide will be continued.

Year	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
No. of Nests Treated	170	164	(n.a.)	315	790	1,760	1,211	1,333	939	969	269	254	366



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Management Works: Pest Management


Pest Management (Apple Snail)

- 4kg of Apple Snails was manually removed from Pond 4;
- Application of Camellia seed in 2020:

Month	Camellia Seed Applied (kg)				Total
	Pond 15	Pond 20	Pond 21	Pond 22	
Jan	-	50	50	50	150
Feb	-	-	-	-	0
Mar	-	-	-	-	0
Apr	-	-	-	-	0
May	-	-	-	-	0
Jun	-	-	-	-	0
Jul	125	-	-	-	125
Aug	-	-	-	-	0
Sep	-	50	50	-	100
Oct	-	-	50	100	150
Nov	-	-	-	-	0
Dec	-	-	-	-	0
Total	125	100	150	150	525



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Management Works: Pest Management


Pest Management (Unwanted fish - Lime)

- Lime was applied to the wet mud to kill unwanted fish, e.g. Climbing Perch;
- Lime applied for pest management in 2020:

Month	Lime Application (kg)		
	Pond 11	Pond 19	Total
January	-	-	0
February	-	-	0
March	-	-	0
April	-	-	0
May	200	-	200
June	-	400	400
July	-	-	0
August	-	-	0
September	-	-	0
October	-	-	0
November	-	500	500
December	-	-	0
Total	200	900	1,100



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Numerical Bird Target Performance in the Past 5 Years


Year	2016			2017			2018			2019			2020*		
	LMC	CA	Ratio	LMC	CA	Ratio	LMC	CA	Ratio	LMC	CA	Ratio	LMC	CA	Ratio
Species/Density (mean/ha)	6.2	0.5	12.7	7.4	0.6	13.2	8.9	0.5	18.7	8.4	0.3	28.8	12.1	0.2	65.7
Great Cormorant	2.1	0.1	19.6	2.3	0.2	13.9	2.2	0.1	15.3	1.7	0.1	11.8	2.2	0.2	11.8
Grey Heron	1.5	0.6	2.3	2.4	0.5	4.6	1.9	0.4	4.6	1.2	0.4	2.9	2.5	0.8	3.1
Great Egret	0.6	1.0	0.6	1.1	0.8	1.5	0.7	0.7	0.1	0.5	0.6	0.8	1.5	0.9	1.6
Little Egret	0.8	0.6	1.3	1.3	0.6	2.0	1.6	0.7	2.4	0.9	0.4	2.2	1.2	0.5	2.3
Chinese Pond Heron	0.5	<0.1	17.2	0.7	0.1	12.3	0.5	0.1	7.8	0.4	<0.1	65.9	0.4	<0.1	14.5
Black-faced Spoonbill	2.2	<0.1	374.5	0.5	<0.1	24.2	0.3	<0.1	51.3	3.0	<0.1	63.1	1.6	<0.1	165.9
Eurasian Teal	<0.1	-	LMC	<0.1	-	LMC	<0.1	-	LMC	<0.1	-	LMC	<0.1	-	LMC
Greater Spotted Eagle	<0.1	-	LMC	<0.1	-	LMC	<0.1	-	LMC	<0.1	-	LMC	<0.1	-	LMC
Eastern Imperial Eagle	<0.1	-	LMC	<0.1	-	LMC	<0.1	-	LMC	<0.1	-	LMC	<0.1	-	LMC
Japanese Quail	-	-	nr	<0.1	-	LMC	<0.1	-	LMC	<0.1	<0.1	0.8	-	-	nr
Eurasian Coot	0.1	<0.1	295.9	<0.1	<0.1	189.9	<0.1	-	LMC	<0.1	<0.1	3.8	<0.1	<0.1	2.6
Pheasant-tailed Jacana	<0.1	<0.1	19.7	<0.1	-	LMC	<0.1	<0.1	51.8	<0.1	<0.1	60.4	<0.1	-	LMC
Greater Painted-snipe	<0.1	-	LMC	<0.1	-	LMC	<0.1	-	LMC	<0.1	-	LMC	<0.1	<0.1	22.2
Black-winged Stilt	0.1	0.1	0.9	0.2	0.1	1.5	0.1	0.2	0.5	0.4	0.2	1.9	0.6	0.4	1.5
Pintail/Swinhoe's Snipe ¹	<0.1	<0.1	47.7	<0.1	<0.1	36.2	0.1	<0.1	70.7	<0.1	<0.1	14.0	<0.1	<0.1	56.7
Common Snipe	0.1	<0.1	11.6	<0.1	<0.1	2.8	<0.1	<0.1	2.0	0.1	<0.1	7.6	<0.1	<0.1	8.0
Blue-throat	-	-	nr	<0.1	<0.1	0.4	<0.1	<0.1	1.1	<0.1	<0.1	12.3	<0.1	<0.1	7.4
Pallas's Grasshopper Warbler	<0.1	<0.1	2.5	<0.1	<0.1	19.7	<0.1	<0.1	46.9	<0.1	<0.1	28.8	<0.1	-	LMC
Zitting Cisticola	<0.1	<0.1	0.8	<0.1	0.1	0.8	0.1	<0.1	2.0	0.1	<0.1	7.4	0.1	<0.1	2.5
Japanese Yellow Bunting	-	-	nr	-	-	nr	-	<0.1	CA	-	-	nr	-	-	nr
Red-billed Starling	3.0	0.4	7.2	3.0	0.4	6.8	3.2	0.2	16.9	2.9	0.1	30.3	2.5	<0.1	92.3

nr – Not recorded within LMC EEA or Control Areas during the period
 Blue – Target met (i.e. density in EEA at least twice that in Control Areas)
 Yellow – Target not met, although density higher than in Control Areas
 Red – Target not met and density lower than in Control Areas.

1. Includes one species pair, Pintail/Swinhoe's Snipe, not distinguishable in the field.
 * Data in 2020 is calculated based on the maximum count of all surveys
 † i.e. including the afternoon counts and roost count.



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Non-numerical Bird Target Performance in the Past 5 Years

Year	2016			2017			2018			2019			2020*		
	LMC	CA	Ratio	LMC	CA	Ratio	LMC	CA	Ratio	LMC	CA	Ratio	LMC	CA	Ratio
Eurasian Wigeon	1.5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Little Grebe	1.3	0.7	1.7	1.3	0.7	1.7	1.0	0.9	1.1	0.9	0.7	1.3	0.6	0.8	0.8
Yellow Bittern	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cinnamon Bittern	<0.1	-	LMC	<0.1	-	LMC	<0.1	<0.1	4.9	-	<0.1	CA	<0.1	-	LMC
Black-crowned Night Heron	0.1	<0.1	10.1	0.4	<0.1	23.4	0.4	<0.1	8.8	0.2	<0.1	7.4	0.6	<0.1	21.4
Intermediate Egret	0.1	<0.1	10.6	0.2	<0.1	10.1	0.1	<0.1	11.4	<0.1	<0.1	6.5	<0.1	<0.1	3.3
Wood Sandpiper	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.4	<0.1	8.9	0.3	<0.1	5.7
White-cheeked Stirling	0.6	<0.1	17.9	0.2	0.1	3.7	0.3	<0.1	10.8	0.6	<0.1	161.2	0.4	<0.1	75.8
White-shouldered Stirling	1.2	0.1	15.5	1.2	0.1	12.2	1.1	0.1	10.7	1.1	0.1	14.7	1.6	<0.1	42.1
Yellow-breasted Bunting	<0.1	<0.1	9.9	<0.1	<0.1	9.2	<0.1	<0.1	23.4	<0.1	-	LMC	<0.1	<0.1	5.5

* Data in 2020 is calculated based on the maximum count of all surveys i.e. also including the afternoon counts and roost count.

nr - Not recorded within LMC EEA or Control Areas during the period.
 Blue - Density in LMC EEA at least twice that in Control Areas
 Yellow - Density higher in LMC EEA than in Control Areas
 Red - Density in LMC EEA lower than in Control Areas.

7

Roost Count in the Year

- Roost is mainly located at Pond 2, including the island and the northern bund.

Species	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Black-faced Spoonbill*	23	62	6	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Black-crowned Night Heron	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
Chinese Pond Heron	100	132	51	20	5	4	32	77	53	40	1	53
Eastern Cattle Egret	18	96	39	17	1	-	-	14	20	43	-	99
Grey Heron	12	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	3	2	15
Purple Heron	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Great Egret	201	123	40	80	49	28	68	115	749	59	12	95
Intermediate Egret	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-
Little Egret	455	148	50	12	6	5	96	64	950	21	-	60
Great Cormorant	2,152	2,146	98	1	-	-	-	-	3	936	2,146	2,601
Total of Large Waterbirds	2,961	2,707	284	133	62	37	196	272	1,781	1,101	2,160	2,923

* The species occurred on site or recorded dropping into the main site during the surveys.

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Nest Box Occupation in the Year

- 122 nest boxes installed: 120 nest boxes were occupied, 87 nest boxes with eggs/chicks, 33 with nesting materials only, whereas 10 were broken;
- 86 boxes with eggs/chicks were occupied by White-shouldered Stirling; 1 box was occupied by Oriental Magpie Robin.

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Nesting Birds (in addition to nest box)

- Number of pair and juvenile recorded:

Little Grebe	10 pairs, 3 juveniles
Cinnamon Bittern	1 pair
Common Moorhen	5 pairs
Little Ringed Plover	2 pairs, 1 juvenile

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Globally Threatened Bird Species

Species	IUCN	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Falcat Duck	NT	12	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	7	2
Black-faced Spoonbill	EN	114	122	67	6	-	-	-	-	-	36	117	131
Greater Spotted Eagle	VU	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	4	
Eastern Imperial Eagle	VU	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	3	
Red-necked Stint	NT	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Collared Crow	VU	3	2	3	5	3	3	1	2	3	2	2	3
Manchurian Reed Warbler	VU	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Yellow-breasted Bunting	CR	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	-

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Mammal Targets Recorded in the Past 10 Years

- Eurasian Otter was recorded on 19 days in this reporting period;
- Leopard Cat was recorded on 53 days with an OI of 53.6;

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Eurasian Otter <i>Lutra lutra</i>										
Maximum Count	0	1	1	2	0	1	1	1	1	1
No. of Records ¹	0	1	13 ²	5 ²	0	1	2	5	6	19
Leopard Cat <i>Prionailurus bengalensis</i>										
No. of Records ¹ /OI ²	121	11	111	871	114 ^{1,1%}	65 ¹ , 25.2 ²	51 ¹ , 24.1 ²	54 ¹ , 22.6 ²	70 ¹ , 31.2 ²	53 ¹ , 53.6 ²

Note:
 1. Number of dates recorded by all installed cameras plus direct observations.
 2. Occurrence Index.

Key:
 # Including one dead individual found at LMC EEA
 % Including direct observation of one individual at Pond 12
 % Footprints were recorded

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Mammal Targets - Eurasian Otter

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Mammal Targets - Leopard Cat

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Reptile Targets Recorded in the past 10 years

- Reeves' Turtle, Chinese Soft-shelled Turtle and Burmese Python were recorded in 2020.

Species	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Reeves' Turtle <i>Mauremys reevesii</i>	-	-	-	-	2 (1)	4 (2)	8 (2)	-	2 (1)	1 (1)
Chinese Soft-shelled Turtle <i>Pelodiscus sinensis</i>	1 (1)	1 (1)	2 (1)	2(1)	2* (1)	*	3 (1)	1 (1)	0 (0)	1 (1)*
Burmese Python <i>Python bivittatus</i>	0 (0)	0 (0)	1 (1)	3 (1)	1* (1)	1 (1)	0 (0)	0 (0) #	0 (0)	1 (1)

Number of surveys recorded is indicated in the table, whereas the numbers in brackets are the maximum count per survey.

Key:
 * Sighting reported by the reprofiling contractor
 # Include one record of track
 # It was recorded in the Clean-up Reedbed
 * It was recorded by the installed camera

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Reptile Targets

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Red-eared Slider Recorded since 2015

- A maximum of 6 individuals were recorded on one day (in February);
- Recorded in Compartments B and C;
- Maximum number recorded in the past years:
 - 2019 – 7;
 - 2018 – 19, egg laying also noted;
 - 2017 – 14, mating also noted;
 - 2016 – 2, egg laying also noted;
 - 2015 – 7.

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Red-eared Slider Recorded since 2015

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Maximum Number of Red-eared Slider Recorded in Each Pond since 2015

Pond	Year					
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
2	-	-	2	-	1	-
3	1	-	1	3	2	2
4	-	-	1	-	1	1
5	-	-	2	1	-	-
6	1	1	-	-	2	2
7	1	1	-	3	1	2
8	1	-	1	1	-	2
9	2	-	1	3	2	1
10	1	-	1	1	2	3
11	-	1	4	17	3	1
12	2	1	7	2	4	1
13	-	1	-	1	1	1
14	-	-	-	6	1	-
15	6	1	1	1	-	1
16	-	-	1	-	1	-
17	1	-	-	1	2	-
18	-	-	-	1	-	1
19	1	1	-	7	1	1
20	-	-	-	3	3	5
21	-	-	-	1	1	-
22	-	-	-	-	-	-

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Amphibian Findings since 2006

- Target species, Chinese Bullfrog, was not recorded in 2020.

Species/ Maximum Total Number of Individuals Recorded in All Ponds in LMC EEA	2006-2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Asian Common Toad <i>Bufo melanostictus</i>	4	3	1	2	7	1	7	15	6	8
Asiatic Painted Frog <i>Kaloula pulchra</i>	2	2	1	-	-	-	-	1	2	1
Butler's Pigmy Frog <i>Microhyla butleri</i>	2	-	2	-	-	-	-	45	-	3
Ornate Pigmy Frog <i>Microhyla ornata</i>	128	5	7	4	-	-	-	20	18	-
Marbled Pigmy Frog <i>Microhyla pulchra</i>	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	50	-	-
Paddy Frog <i>Fejervarya limnocharis</i>	35	20	6	1	10	35	19	13	6	7
Chinese Bullfrog <i>Hoplobatrachus chinensis</i>	4 (9)	2 (8)	1 (2)	1 (2)	0 (0)	0 (0)	4 (9)	0 (0)	1 (2)	0 (0)
Günther's Frog <i>Rana guentheri</i>	157	132	108	293	115	82	342	172	127	73
Two-striped Grass Frog <i>Rana taiopehensis</i>	2	1	1	-	2	-	-	-	-	-
Brown Tree Frog <i>Polypedates megacephalus</i>	33	12	14	7	3	6	6	1	5	7
American Bullfrog <i>Lithobates catesbeianus</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Number of species recorded	8	8	9	7	5	4	5	8	7	7

Maximum count (per survey) is indicated in the table; for Chinese Bullfrog, the number in brackets are the total number of individuals recorded in the year.

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Dragonfly Findings since 2006

Dragonfly Recorded as Adults or Exuviae at LMC EEA	2006-2011	2012	2013	2014	2015*	2016*	2017*	2018	2019	2020
Number of Species Recorded	25	25	22	21	17	21	25	21	24	24
Total Number of Species Recorded	35									


Key: * A Midget species was also recorded.
Species recorded are presented in Appendix for reference.

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Management Works : Rice Planting

Year	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Total Number of Yellow-breasted Bunting Recorded	4	12	1	6	3	6	0	0	4	14	19	1	8



ecology biodiversity landscape **aec** Lok Ma Chau Spur Line 40th Environmental Committee Meeting Report on Ecological Monitoring and Management, and Works Programme (Jan – Dec 2020) www.aechk.hk 22

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