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Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Session No. : 12

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**Replies to initial written questions raised by Finance Committee Members
in examining the Estimates of Expenditure 2009-10**

**Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment
Session No. : 12**

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**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB001

Question Serial No.

0382

Head: 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead:

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

It is estimated that 700 000 seedlings will be planted in 2009. The number is lower than over 900 000 seedlings in 2007 and in 2008. What are the reasons? Please give information on the sites for tree planting.

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Hak-kan

Reply:

The estimated number of seedlings to be planted in 2009 will decrease to 700 000 mainly due to the lack of suitable sites for large scale tree planting programmes. The majority of country park areas is now well wooded or covered with good vegetation. Opportunities for large scale tree planting may not be readily available. Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department is now focusing more on the quality of planting rather than quantity. Apart from rehabilitating areas damaged by hill fires and controlling soil erosion, more attention will be given to enriching existing exotic plantations through inter-planting with native tree species.

The 700 000 tree seedlings will be planted in various country parks including Tai Lam, Ma On Shan and Lantau.

Signature _____

Name in block letters MISS CHEUNG SIU HING

Post Title Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date 13 March 2009

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB002

Question Serial No.

0383

Head: 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead:

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

In view of the recent pollution of the Shenzhen River caused by the collapse of a landfill, will the Administration consider providing more resources to enhance the conservation and management of the Mai Po and Inner Deep Bay Ramsar site, including formulating contingency plans to deal with unexpected pollution incidents in the vicinity of the site?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Hak-kan

Reply:

The Environmental Protection Department (EPD) has a mechanism in place to liaise with both the Guangdong Environmental Protection Bureau (GEPB) and Shenzhen Environmental Protection Bureau (SEPB) so as to share information on environmental issues of mutual concern. In the recent water pollution incident at Buji River, the EPD had stayed in touch with the GEPB and SEPB for updated information so that the Administration could take early preparation of appropriate contingency actions. Apart from close monitoring of the water quality to detect any impact due to the pollution incident by EPD, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department has also notified the World Wide Fund for Nature/Hong Kong which manages the Mai Po Nature Reserve (MPNR) to take precautionary measure to avoid using water in Shenzhen River or Inner Deep Bay for flushing the gei wais in MPNR.

To protect the lower reach of Shenzhen River including the Mai Po and Inner Deep Bay Ramsar site (Ramsar site) from the impact of water pollution arising from upstreams, the Administration had in place a contingency plan. For example, screens and nets could be set up in the River to get rid of rubbish and pollutants when necessary. Chemicals were in stock to be applied to the polluted waters when necessary to enhance sedimentation of the suspended matters so that the settled sludge can be dredged for disposal later. These above measures were not necessary for this incident.

So far, no abnormality has been detected in the Hong Kong side of Shenzhen River and the Ramsar site. Based on the experience in handling this incident, the Administration will seek to further strengthen co-operation with the relevant authorities in Guangdong and Shenzhen, with a view to minimising the impact of any similar environmental emergencies in future and protecting the ecologically important area in the environs of Deep Bay including the Ramsar site.

Signature _____

Name in block letters MISS CHEUNG SIU HING

Post Title Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date 16 March 2009

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2009-10

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB003

Question Serial No.

0384

Head: 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead:

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

What is the amount of resources allocated to the promotion of public education and publicity on nature conservation in 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10 respectively? What are the themes?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Hak-kan

Reply:

In 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10, the expenditures on the promotion of public education and awareness programmes on nature conservation are about \$10 million each year.

The main themes of the education and publicity programmes are about the diversity and beauty of Hong Kong's natural environment and the importance of preserving it for future generations.

Signature _____

Name in block letters MISS CHEUNG SIU HING

Post Title Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date 13 March 2009

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB004

Question Serial No.

0385

Head: 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead:

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

What is the amount of expenditure involved in the promotion of geo-conservation and the establishment of a geopark? Will there be an increase in manpower to deal with the work? What specific actions will be taken?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Hak-kan

Reply:

The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department has earmarked \$7 million in 2009-10 for the promotion of geo-conservation and preparatory work for establishing the geopark. The Department will embark on various educational and publicity activities, including school education visits, guided tours, development of geo-trails and renovation of visitor centres to promote geo-conservation. In parallel, it has started preparing for the nomination of the proposed geopark as a national geopark, and the designation of new special areas and marine parks to step up the protection of selected sites of geological interests. Upon finalization of the designation plan, Government will formulate the future resources requirements.

Signature _____

Name in block letters MISS CHEUNG SIU HING

Post Title Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date 13 March 2009

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2009-10

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB005

Question Serial No.

0386

Head: 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead:

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

For the 52 posts to be created under this programme, what are the work arrangements involved?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Hak-kan

Reply:

Please see attached sheet.

Signature _____

Name in block letters MISS CHEUNG SIU HING

Post Title Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date 12 March 2009

New posts for 2009-10: 52 posts

| Rank of Post | No. of Post | Main Duties/Justifications/Work Arrangements |
|---------------------------------------|---|---|
| I. Nature Conservation | | |
| Forestry Officer | 4 | ♦ To set up a permanent team to provide essential professional, executive and technical support for the management of the Hong Kong Wetland Park. |
| Senior Field Officer | 1 | |
| Field Officer I | 5 | |
| Field Officer II | 10 | |
| Field Assistant | 14 | |
| Executive Officer II | 1 | |
| Clerical Officer | 1 | |
| Assistant Clerical Officer | 2 | |
| | [Personal Emoluments expenditure: \$10.0M] | |
| II. Management of Marine Parks | | |
| Fisheries Supervisor II | 2 | ♦ To carry out enforcement and management work in marine parks. |
| Field Assistant | 8 | |
| Artisan | 4 | |
| | [Personal Emoluments expenditure: \$2.4M] | |
| Total | 52 | |
| | [Personal Emoluments expenditure: \$12.4M] | |

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB006

Question Serial No.

2955

Head: 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead:

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

In 2009-10, will the department consider providing resources to review the guidelines and procedures concerning tree conservation and maintaining healthy growth of trees so as to protect trees with conservation value? If yes, what are the action plans and estimated expenditure involved? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Tanya

Reply:

The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department regularly reviews the relevant guidelines on tree preservation and maintenance and audit inspections of Old and Valuable Trees. The work is part of the department's on-going effort for nature conservation, and there is no separate breakdown of the expenditure involved.

Signature _____

Name in block letters MISS CHEUNG SIU HING

Post Title Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date 16 March 2009

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB007

Question Serial No.

2956

Head: 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead:

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

In 2009-10, will the Department consider allocating additional resources to acquire more advanced equipment and increase its manpower to carry out tree preservation work, including tree inspection, maintenance and restoration? If yes, please provide the details and the timetable for implementation. If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Tanya

Reply:

The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) seeks to keep abreast of developments in new arboricultural tools and equipment, and procures suitable ones to enhance our work in tree inspection and risk assessment. In this connection, AFCD has in recent years acquired several advanced tools including resistograph, digital microprobe and sonic tomograph to help tree inspection. AFCD will acquire extra sets of these tools in 2009-10. AFCD also keeps under review the need to increase the capacity and efficiency of its work force to cope with the increasing workload of tree inspection and maintenance. AFCD has already stepped up the frequency of audit inspections of Old and Valuable Trees under its charge and inspections of trees at recreation sites of country parks. These have been achieved through internal redeployment of staff resources and streamlining of operations. No additional staff resources and major re-organization have been planned for 2009-10 in this regard.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ **MISS CHEUNG SIU HING** _____

Post Title _____ **Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation** _____

Date _____ **18 March 2009** _____

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB008

Question Serial No.

2957

Head: 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead:

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

To enhance public awareness of tree conservation, will tree planting or public education activities on tree conservation be organized in 2009-10? If so, what are the action plan and the details of the estimated expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Tanya

Reply:

To promote tree conservation, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department will continue to organize a series of educational and tree planting activities in 2009-10. These include tree planting days, educational visits to primary and secondary schools, provision of guided-tours and talks, tree-walks, activities at the tree centre at Aberdeen Country Park, and promotion through various nature related websites. The amount of expenditure involved in these activities is \$2 million for 2009-10.

Signature _____

Name in block letters MISS CHEUNG SIU HING

Post Title Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date 18 March 2009

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB009

Question Serial No.

0342

Head: 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead:

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

It is estimated that 700 000 seedlings will be planted in 2009. The number decreases by 200 000 seedlings than that of 2008. What are the reasons for the decrease? Please provide the estimated number of native tree seedlings to be planted in 2009 and the expenditure involved.

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Wai-yip, Albert

Reply:

The estimated number of seedlings to be planted in 2009 will decrease to 700 000 mainly due to the lack of suitable sites for large scale tree planting programmes. The majority of country park areas is now well wooded or covered with good vegetation. Opportunities for large scale tree planting may not be readily available. Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department is now focusing more on the quality of planting rather than quantity. Apart from rehabilitating areas damaged by hill fires and controlling soil erosion, more attention will be given to enriching existing exotic plantations through inter-planting with native tree species.

The estimated number of native tree seedlings to be planted in 2009 is 460 000. The expenditure involved is about \$4.9 million.

Signature _____

Name in block letters MISS CHEUNG SIU HING

Post Title Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date 13 March 2009

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB010

Question Serial No.

0506

Head: 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead:

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

In 2009-10, regarding the establishment under the "Nature Conservation and Country Parks" Programme, there will be a net increase of 52 posts after the conversion of non-civil service posts into civil service posts. Please give in table form a breakdown of such posts by grade, work area and annual salary. What services will be improved by the new posts?

Asked by: Hon. EU Yuet-mee, Audrey

Reply:

Please see attached sheet.

Signature _____

Name in block letters MISS CHEUNG SIU HING

Post Title Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date 12 March 2009

New posts for 2009-10: 52 posts

| Rank of Post | No. of Post | Main Duties/Justifications/Work Arrangements |
|--|--|---|
| I. Nature Conservation | | |
| Forestry Officer Senior Field Officer Field Officer I Field Officer II Field Assistant Executive Officer II Clerical Officer Assistant Clerical Officer | 4 1 5 10 14 1 1 2 [Personal Emoluments expenditure: \$10.0M] | ♦ To set up a permanent team to provide essential professional, executive and technical support for the management of the Hong Kong Wetland Park. |
| II. Management of Marine Parks | | |
| Fisheries Supervisor II Field Assistant Artisan | 2 8 4 [Personal Emoluments expenditure: \$2.4M] | ♦ To carry out enforcement and management work in marine parks. |
| Total | 52 [Personal Emoluments expenditure: \$12.4M] | |

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2009-10

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB011

Question Serial No.

0507

Head: 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead:

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

What is the provision earmarked for the promotion of geo-conservation and the establishment of a geopark in the estimate for 2009-10?

Asked by: Hon. EU Yuet-mee, Audrey

Reply:

The provision earmarked in 2009-10 for the promotion of geo-conservation and preparatory work for the proposed geopark is \$7 million.

Signature _____

Name in block letters MISS CHEUNG SIU HING

Post Title Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date 12 March 2009

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB012

Question Serial No.

1517

Head: 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead:

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

It does not mention any measures to prevent precious animals and plants such as Buddhist pines and incense trees from being stolen from country parks under this Programme. What were the measures taken in 2008-09 to prevent such precious species from being stolen from country parks? What was the expenditure involved? Will there be an increase in provision to improve the situation in 2009-10?

Asked by: Hon. EU Yuet-mee, Audrey

Reply:

To combat the illegal felling of valuable trees and other unauthorized activities in country parks, we have stepped up patrols to black spots within country parks. We have also conducted a public awareness programme with the Police to encourage individual hikers and hiking groups to report any irregularities in country parks. In 2008-09, the total provision for the protection of country parks was about \$33.5 million. In 2009-10, the provision will remain the same.

Signature _____

Name in block letters MISS CHEUNG SIU HING

Post Title Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date 16 March 2009

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB013

Question Serial No.

0330

Head: 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead:

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

In 2009-10, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department will promote public education and publicity on nature conservation and compatible use of country parks and marine parks. Please advise whether any local eco-tour programme is included in the promotion of public education and publicity on nature conservation. If yes, what is the expenditure involved? How much of the expenditure on the eco-tour programme is for employing tour guides? If not, will there be any other expenditure for promoting the local eco-tour programme?

Asked by: Hon. HO Sau-lan, Cyd

Reply:

In 2009-10, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department will arrange selected local guided nature tours in some country parks and marine parks to promote public education and publicity on nature conservation and compatible use of country parks and marine parks at an estimated cost of \$1.3 million. In addition, the Hong Kong Wetland Park also employs Wetland Interpreters to guide visitors in appreciating ecological features in the Park. In 2009-10, the estimated cost is about \$1.5 million.

Signature _____

Name in block letters MISS CHEUNG SIU HING

Post Title Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date 12 March 2009

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB014

Question Serial No.

2592

Head: 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead:

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

Under its Indicators, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department states that 700 000 seedlings will be planted in 2009, which is 200 000 seedlings less than that of 2007 and 2008. Please advise on:

- (a) The reasons for the substantial decrease in the seedlings planted.
- (b) The amount of expenditure saved from the reduction of seedlings planted.

Asked by: Hon. IP Wai-ming

Reply:

- (a) The estimated number of seedlings to be planted in 2009 will decrease to 700 000 mainly due to the lack of suitable sites for large scale tree planting programmes. The majority of country park areas is now well wooded or covered with good vegetation. Opportunities for large scale tree planting may not be readily available. Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department is now focusing more on the quality of planting rather than quantity. Apart from rehabilitating areas damaged by hill fires and controlling soil erosion, more attention will be given to enriching existing exotic plantations through inter-planting with native tree species.
- (b) The estimated total material and labour costs for the planting work in 2009 will be \$7.4 million, which is \$1.5 million less than that in 2008.

Signature _____

Name in block letters MISS CHEUNG SIU HING

Post Title Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date 18 March 2009

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB015

Question Serial No.

2593

Head: 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead:

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department has indicated in the analysis of financial provision that 52 non-civil service positions will be converted to civil service posts under this programme. Please explain in detail the civil service posts that will be involved and their salaries.

Asked by: Hon. IP Wai-ming

Reply:

The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department will create 52 new civil service posts in 2009-10 to provide essential professional, executive and technical support for the management of the Hong Kong Wetland Park, and for carrying out enforcement and management work in marine parks. These new civil service posts will replace existing non-civil service positions.

The detailed list and the salary of the new civil service posts are:

| Posts | No. of Posts to be created | Average Annual Salary (per post) |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Hong Kong Wetland Park | | |
| Forestry Officer | 4 | \$499,170 |
| Senior Field Officer | 1 | \$529,860 |
| Field Officer I | 5 | \$402,240 |
| Field Officer II | 10 | \$187,470 |
| Field Assistant | 14 | \$178,680 |
| Executive Officer II | 1 | \$350,820 |
| Clerical Officer | 1 | \$303,840 |
| Assistant Clerical Officer | 2 | \$189,420 |
| Sub-total | 38 | |

| Posts | No. of Posts to be created | Average Annual Salary (per post) |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Management of Marine Parks | | |
| Fisheries Supervisor II | 2 | \$187,470 |
| Field Assistant | 8 | \$178,680 |
| Artisan | 4 | \$157,440 |
| Sub-total | 14 | |
| Total | 52 | |

Signature _____

Name in block letters MISS CHEUNG SIU HING

Post Title Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date 18 March 2009

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB016

Question Serial No.

2661

Head: 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead:

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

Under "Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2009-10", it is stated that enforcement action will be taken against illegal trade in endangered species. Please provide information on the following:

- (a) What were the specific measures over the past two years, namely 2007-08 and 2008-09, for protecting precious species from being stolen from country parks? What were the expenditures involved?
- (b) What are the specific measures for providing education and publicity on endangered species protection? What are the expenditures involved? What is the estimated number of people who will receive the relevant messages?

Asked by: Hon. IP Wai-ming

Reply:

- (a) To combat illegal felling of valuable trees and other unauthorized activities in country parks, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) has stepped up patrols at black spots within country parks and strengthen communications with the Police. AFCD has also conducted a public awareness programme in collaboration with the Police to encourage hikers and hiking groups to report any irregularities in country parks. In 2007-08 and 2008-09, the total provision for the protection of country parks was about \$31.8 million and \$33.5 million respectively.
- (b) The AFCD conducts a variety of education and publicity activities in relation to endangered species protection. In 2008-09, the expenditure involved was \$1.4 million, and the same amount of provision has been earmarked for 2009-10.

These activities include talks, exhibitions in schools, the Young Ambassadors Programme, student summer camps and CDs as teaching material. Circular letters are also issued to traders and other concerned parties to update them on any change in legislative control. As for education and publicity activities targeted at the general public, they include the distribution of leaflets, posters, and holding exhibitions in public venues. We also give talks to organizations. We have also set up permanent display cabinets at the airport and broadcast video and display posters at control points.

Moreover, the Department runs the Endangered Species Resource Centre to promote public awareness of endangered species protection. It attracts some 6,000 visitors annually. It also maintains a homepage on endangered species protection to provide information on the species and the related control measures in Hong Kong. The number of people reached out through the various education and publicity efforts cannot be estimated accurately, but should be significant.

Signature _____

Name in block letters MISS CHEUNG SIU HING

Post Title Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date 18 March 2009

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB017

Question Serial No.

0281

Head: 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead:

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

In connection with the work on management and protection of country parks, special areas, marine parks and marine reserves under this programme, please inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) What were the staffing and expenditure involved in the management and protection of country parks, special areas, marine parks and marine reserves in 2008-09? What are the estimated staffing and expenditure for 2009-10?
- (b) How effective were the measures taken to combat illegal felling of trees in country parks over the past year? Will the Administration strengthen its efforts in combating such activities?

Asked by: Hon. KAM Nai-wai

Reply:

- (a) In 2008-09, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department has 854 posts for the management and protection of country parks, special areas, marine parks and marine reserves. It is estimated that the number will be 906 in 2009-10.

The total expenditure for the management and protection of country parks, special areas, marine parks and marine reserves is about \$296 million for 2008-09. The estimated expenditure for 2009-10 will be the same.

- (b) In 2008, 15 cases of illegal picking/cutting of plants within country parks were prosecuted. We have taken action to step up patrols to black spots within country parks. We have also conducted a public awareness programme in collaboration with the Police to encourage hikers and hiking groups to report any irregularities in country parks. These efforts will continue.

Signature _____

Name in block letters MISS CHEUNG SIU HING

Post Title Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date 18 March 2009

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB018

Question Serial No.

0282

Head: 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead:

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

Regarding nature conservation, please inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) The effectiveness of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department's work on provision of nature conservation advice on development proposals, planning studies and environmental impact assessments over the past year.
- (b) The details of the Department's work on monitoring and auditing of ecological mitigation measures for development projects approved under the Environmental Impact Assessment Ordinance.

Asked by: Hon. KAM Nai-wai

Reply:

- (a) Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) advises the Director of Environmental Protection on ecological matters in relation to the implementation of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Ordinance (Cap.499). We provide, in particular, technical advice on flora, fauna and wildlife habitats in EIA studies for development projects. We examine applications for study briefs, approval of EIA reports and environmental permits (EPs) under the EIA Ordinance. We also handle a range of EIA-related matters, such as Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Environmental Review (ER).

In 2008, we handled 161 EIA studies and applications. Some major projects among these are the development of Lok Ma Chau Loop, North East New Territories (NENT) New Development Areas, Express Rail Link-Hong Kong Section, Liantang/Heung Yuen Wai Boundary Control Point, Extension of West New Territories (WENT) and South East New Territories (SENT) Landfills, Ocean Park Re-development, Shatin to Central Link (railway).

- (b) AFCD assists the Environmental Protection Department in checking the implementation of ecological mitigation measures, submissions to fulfill EPs, and ecological monitoring and audit (EM&A) programmes. The main objectives of EM&A programmes are to ensure fulfillment of mitigation measures, to detect any non-compliance of EP conditions and to review effectiveness of mitigation measures. AFCD reviews the EM&A reports submitted by the project proponents, carries out field visits to verify the findings and to ensure ecological mitigation measures and monitoring are properly implemented. Over 10 EM&A programmes of major development projects were examined by AFCD in 2008, e.g., Improvement to Tung Chung Road, West Rail, Sheung Shui to Lok Ma Chau Spur Line, Yuen Long Bypass Floodway, Deep Bay Link and Tai O Sheltered Boat Anchorage.

A wide range of ecological mitigation measures have been adopted in these projects, e.g., adjusting the project layout, adopting ecologically friendly designs or translocation of targeted species away from work sites, compensation of loss of important habitats such as woodland or wetland. The ecological mitigation measures monitored in the EM&A programmes in 2008 have so far been on track and no major non-compliance has been detected.

Signature _____

Name in block letters MISS CHEUNG SIU HING

Post Title Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date 13 March 2009

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB019

Question Serial No.

0283

Head: 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead:

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

Regarding the prevention of hill fires, please advise:

- (a) Are there any specific measures to enhance fire protection for woodlands and country parks? Are there any replanting programmes for the trees destroyed in areas affected by hill fires? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?
- (b) The estimated number of seedlings to be planted in 2009 is 700 000, which is nearly 200 000 less than the actual number of 904 000 planted in 2008. What are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon. KAM Nai-wai

Reply:

- (a) To protect our country parks and woodland from hill fires, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) maintains 26 fire fighting teams and 11 fire lookouts at strategic locations to detect and fight hill fires during the dry season. In 2009-10, we will continue our educational programmes and publicity activities on hill fire prevention through village visits, public announcements, production and distribution of leaflets, media briefings and press tours. During days of high fire risks, country park patrols will be stepped up to advise visitors to prevent hill fires and to enforce against the unauthorized use of fire. AFCD will also continue to carry out tree planting in country parks to rehabilitate sites damaged by hill fires.
- (b) The estimated number of seedlings to be planted in 2009 will decrease to 700 000 mainly due to the lack of suitable sites for large scale tree planting programmes. The majority of country park areas is now well wooded or covered with good vegetation. Opportunities for large scale tree planting may not be readily available. AFCD is now focusing more on the quality of planting rather than quantity. Apart from rehabilitating areas damaged by hill fires and controlling soil erosion, more attention will be given to enriching existing exotic plantations through inter-planting with native tree species.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ MISS CHEUNG SIU HING

Post Title _____ Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date _____ 13 March 2009

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB020

Question Serial No.

2224

Head: 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead:

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

In connection with the enhancement of biodiversity in country parks and special areas, please inform this Committee of the details and the amount of expenditure involved. Will such work be coordinated with local and overseas marketing activities for promoting tourism?

Asked by: Hon. LAU Kin-ye, Miriam

Reply:

The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department will continue its conservation measures to enhance biodiversity in country parks and special areas, including creating suitable habitats to propagate rare and special plant species, hence enhancing the species diversity of plantations. For example, 460 000 native tree seedlings will be planted at various country parks in 2009, among them are seedlings of some rare or protected species. The estimated expenditure on these activities is about \$10 million.

The Department will continue to dovetail its work for promoting compatible use of country parks and special areas with activities for promoting tourism where appropriate.

Signature _____

Name in block letters MISS CHEUNG SIU HING

Post Title Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date 18 March 2009

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB021

Question Serial No.

2225

Head: 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead:

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

In connection with the promotion of geo-conservation, does the Administration have any other promotion programmes for 2009-10 apart from the establishment of a geopark? What is the estimated expenditure?

Asked by: Hon. LAU Kin-ye, Miriam

Reply:

In 2009-10, in connection with the preparatory work of the establishment of a geopark, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) will embark on various educational and publicity activities, including school education visits, guided tours, development of geo-trails and renovation of visitor centres to promote geo-conservation. In 2009-10, AFCD has earmarked \$7 million for the promotion of geo-conservation and preparatory work for the establishment of the geopark.

Signature _____

Name in block letters MISS CHEUNG SIU HING

Post Title Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date 16 March 2009

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB022

Question Serial No.

0009

Head: 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead:

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

Regarding the enforcement of nature conservation legislation and promotion of public awareness of nature conservation, please advise this Committee:

- (a) the effectiveness and details of the enforcement of nature conservation legislation in 2008-09, and the estimated expenditure on this item in 2009-10; and
- (b) the measures the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department implemented in 2008-09 to promote public awareness of nature conservation; the effectiveness of the measures; and the estimated expenditure on this item in 2009-10.

Asked by: Hon. LEE Wing-tat

Reply:

- (a) The main ordinances relevant to nature conservation administered by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) include the Country Parks Ordinance (Cap. 208), Marine Parks Ordinance (Cap. 476), Forests and Countryside Ordinance (Cap. 96) and Wild Animals Protection Ordinance (Cap. 170).

So far, we have designated 24 country parks and 17 special areas under Cap 208. The total area being protected and managed is about 44 000 hectares, some 40% of Hong Kong's land area. Under Cap 476, we have designated 4 marine parks and 1 marine reserve representing some 2 430 hectares of the sea area. Three important wildlife habitats are also designated as restricted areas under Cap 170 to protect them from human disturbance. In 2008-09, AFCD continued to enforce the relevant legislation. For example, to protect our country parks, special areas, marine parks, marine reserve and restricted areas for nature conservation, we patrolled them regularly, issued advisories to visitors and prosecuted people against such offences as littering, illegal use of fire and damage of vegetation.

During the year, AFCD also continued to protect Hong Kong's rich biodiversity through enforcing the relevant legislation. There are over 3 100 species of vascular plants, some 50 species of mammals, 480 species of birds, 80 species of reptiles, over 20 species of amphibians, 160 species of freshwater fishes, and more than 230 species of butterflies and 110 species of dragonflies in Hong Kong. Among them over 98% of the native species are represented in protected areas. In addition, in 2008-09, AFCD provided nature conservation advice on some 160 ecological impact assessment applications and studies.

A provision of about \$80 million has been earmarked for the above conservation measures in 2009-10.

- (b) In 2008-09, AFCD continued to manage the country parks, marine reserve and marine parks effectively for the promotion of, inter alia, nature conservation. For example, there were some 12 million visitors to our country parks. To promote public awareness on nature conservation, AFCD organized various activities, for example, school education programmes, seminars, volunteer programmes, guided visits and exhibitions. In 2008-09, some 500 000 people participated in the various promotion activities, e.g., 28 seminars involving some 2 000 participants were held, a total of over 10 500 people took part in our 258 volunteer events. In addition, we arranged suitable publicity in connection with the designation of a new country park, the 24th, and the opening of new facilities such as the Ngong Ping Nature Centre and the Aberdeen Tree Centre.

The estimated expenditure to promote public education and awareness programmes on nature conservation in 2009-10 is about \$10 million.

Signature _____

Name in block letters MISS CHEUNG SIU HING

Post Title Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date 13 March 2009

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB023

Question Serial No.

0010

Head: 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead:

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

Please provide the following information:

- (a) details of the 49 hill fires occurring in 2008, including the location of each hill fire, areas affected and the number of trees destroyed; and
- (b) the estimated expenditure on hill fire prevention in 2009.

Asked by: Hon. LEE Wing-tat

Reply:

- (a) The particulars of hill fires affecting country parks (CP) and special areas (SA) in 2008 are as follows:

| Serial No. | Date | CP/SA | Area Affected (Hectares) | Trees Affected (No.)* |
|-------------------|-------------|--------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 01 | 03.01.08 | Sai Kung West CP | 7.5 | 100 |
| 02 | 13.01.08 | Tai Lam CP | 0.5 | 0 |
| 03 | 13.01.08 | Wetland Park SA | 0.006 | 0 |
| 04 | 23.01.08 | Tai Lam CP | 2 | 0 |
| 05 | 09.02.08 | Tai Mo Shan CP | 1 | 0 |
| 06 | 17.02.08 | Ma On Shan CP | 35 | 1 500 |
| 07 | 18.02.08 | Lantau South CP | 0.5 | 20 |
| 08 | 20.02.08 | Pat Sin Leng CP | 2 | 0 |
| 09 | 20.02.08 | Clear Water Bay CP | 1 | 0 |
| 10 | 25.02.08 | Tai Lam CP | 0.5 | 0 |
| 11 | 28.02.08 | Tai Lam CP | 1 | 0 |
| 12 | 28.02.08 | Tai Lam CP | 5 | 200 |
| 13 | 04.03.08 | Tai Lam CP | 3 | 0 |
| 14 | 05.03.08 | Plover Cove CP | 15 | 0 |
| 15 | 07.03.08 | Ma On Shan CP | 0.06 | 0 |
| 16 | 10.03.08 | Ma On Shan CP | 1.3 | 0 |
| 17 | 14.03.08 | Lantau North CP | 31.0 | 0 |

| Serial No. | Date | CP/SA | Area Affected (Hectares) | Trees Affected (No.)* |
|------------|----------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| 18 | 15.03.08 | Shing Mun CP | 48.0 | 10 000 |
| 19 | 16.03.08 | Tai Lam CP | 2.0 | 80 |
| 20 | 17.03.08 | Plover Cove CP | 0.5 | 0 |
| 21 | 19.03.08 | Lantau North CP | 9.0 | 0 |
| 22 | 13.09.08 | Sai Kung East CP | 1.0 | 350 |
| 23 | 14.09.08 | Tai Mo Shan CP | 1.0 | 0 |
| 24 | 15.09.08 | Lantau South CP | 65.0 | 20 000 |
| 25 | 29.09.08 | Plover Cove CP | 1.0 | 300 |
| 26 | 30.09.08 | Sai Kung West CP | 0.03 | 0 |
| 27 | 12.10.08 | Tai Lam CP | 0.25 | 0 |
| 28 | 18.10.08 | Lam Tsuen CP | 6 | 0 |
| 29 | 20.10.08 | Pat Sin Leng CP | 10 | 500 |
| 30 | 06.11.08 | Tai Lam CP | 0.1 | 0 |
| 31 | 16.11.08 | Pat Sin Leng CP | 1 | 900 |
| 32 | 21.11.08 | Ma On Shan CP | 80 | 20 000 |
| 33 | 24.11.08 | Tai Mo Shan CP | 4 | 0 |
| 34 | 24.11.08 | Tai Lam CP | 120 | 18 000 |
| 35 | 26.11.08 | Tai Lam CP | 2 | 1 000 |
| 36 | 27.11.08 | Ma On Shan CP | 2 | 0 |
| 37 | 28.11.08 | Tai Mo Shan CP | 6 | 0 |
| 38 | 28.11.08 | Tai Mo Shan CP | 0.5 | 0 |
| 39 | 29.11.08 | Tai Mo Shan CP | 1 | 0 |
| 40 | 29.11.08 | Tai Lam CP | 1 | 0 |
| 41 | 06.12.08 | Tai Lam CP | 2 | 0 |
| 42 | 07.12.08 | Tai Tam CP (Quarry Bay Extension) | 0.2 | 0 |
| 43 | 07.12.08 | Tai Tam CP | 0.5 | 0 |
| 44 | 07.12.08 | Tai Tam CP | 0.01 | 0 |
| 45 | 08.12.08 | Tai Lam CP | 15 | 3 000 |
| 46 | 13.12.08 | Pat Sin Leng CP | 1 | 0 |
| 47 | 18.12.08 | Pat Sin Leng CP | 2 | 0 |
| 48 | 19.12.08 | Tai Lam CP | 0.5 | 0 |
| 49 | 21.12.08 | Tai Mo Shan CP | 12 | 0 |
| Total | | | around 501 | 75 950 |

*Rounded figures

- (b) In 2009, the expenditure relating to preventing and fighting hill fires in country parks and special areas is estimated to be \$38 million.

Signature _____

Name in block letters MISS CHEUNG SIU HING

Post Title Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date 12 March 2009

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB024

Question Serial No.

0011

Head: 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead:

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

Please provide the following information:

- (a) the estimated expenditure on and details of the implementation of a territory-wide survey programme for maintaining and updating an ecological database; and
- (b) the action plan of and estimated expenditure on the enhancement of biodiversity in country parks and special areas in 2009-10.

Asked by: Hon. LEE Wing-tat

Reply :

- (a) The survey programme has started since 2002-03. It covers different habitats; the location, status and composition of about 100 plant communities; and the distribution and abundance of about 1 000 animal species, including mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, freshwater fish, dragonflies and butterflies. We have established a geographic information system (GIS) version of the ecological database to enable the storage of data in digital format and analysis of spatial data using computer GIS. A simplified internet version of the database may now be accessed through the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department's website. Since ecology is dynamic, we have to follow up the surveys with continuous monitoring and repeated surveys to update the database from time to time.

A provision of \$3.3 million has been earmarked for the programme in 2009-10.

- (b) The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department will continue its conservation measures to enhance biodiversity in country parks and special areas. These include creating suitable habitats to propagate rare and special plant species, hence enhancing the species diversity of plantations. For example, 460 000 native tree seedlings will be planted in various country parks in 2009, among which are seedlings of some rare or protected species. The estimated expenditure for these activities is about \$10 million.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ MISS CHEUNG SIU HING _____

Post Title _____ Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation _____

Date _____ 13 March 2009 _____

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB025

Question Serial No.

0499

Head: 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead: 603

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

In connection with plant, vehicles and equipment, a patrol launch and a speed boat will be required for the protection and management of the proposed marine parks at Soko Islands and Southwest Lantau. Please give the reasons.

Asked by: Hon. LI Wah-ming, Fred

Reply:

Rough sea conditions are often encountered in the Soko Islands and Southwest Lantau. The larger patrol launch is therefore required for patrolling the area concerned. The speed boat is needed for intercepting fast moving vessels and patrolling in shallower waters.

Signature _____

Name in block letters MISS CHEUNG SIU HING

Post Title Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date 20 March 2009

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB026

Question Serial No.

0500

Head: 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead: 603

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

How many marine parks are there in Hong Kong? Are there any other marine parks deployed with patrol launches and speed boats? If yes, please give their names.

Asked by: Hon. LI Wah-ming, Fred

Reply:

There are currently four marine parks and one marine reserve in Hong Kong. They are patrolled by speed boats.

Signature _____

Name in block letters MISS CHEUNG SIU HING

Post Title Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date 13 March 2009

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB027

Question Serial No.

0641

Head: 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead: 000 Operational Expenses

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

- (a) Under this subhead, there is provision for minor conservation projects and studies. Please provide the number and details of such projects and studies over the past year (i.e. 2008-09).
- (b) Why are the charges for such projects and studies under the recurrent operating account?

Asked by: Hon. WONG Yung-kan

Reply:

- (a) The projects and studies in 2008-09 and their brief details are set out in the following table:

| Titles | Objectives |
|--|---|
| Baseline ecological monitoring project for the Ramsar Site 2008-09 | To establish the baseline of selected biotic and abiotic factors of the Ramsar Site. |
| Management of gei wais at Mai Po Marshes Nature Reserve 2008-09 | To carry out management and maintenance works to gei wais at Mai Po Marshes Nature Reserve so as to provide suitable habitats for migratory birds. |
| Habitat management works at Mai Po Marshes Nature Reserve 2008-09 | To carry out vegetation management and freshwater marsh management works at Mai Po Marshes Nature Reserve for maintaining and enhancing the diversity of habitats for wintering waterfowls. |
| Removal of Sonneratia in the Ramsar Site | To remove Sonneratia, an exotic mangrove species, in the Ramsar Site. |
| Waterbird monitoring programme 2008-09 | To keep track of the dynamics of the waterbirds visiting the Deep Bay area. |
| Age structure assessment of wintering black-faced spoonbill in Hong Kong 2008-09 | To record the age structure of black-faced spoonbills over-wintering in Hong Kong. |
| Monkey contraception programme | To carry out contraception treatment of the monkey populations in Hong Kong. |

| | |
|---|---|
| Tracking study and nesting site identification for green turtles | To ascertain the migration routes of green turtles nesting or feeding in Hong Kong or adjacent waters using satellite tracking and to monitor the utilization of potential nesting sites. |
| Monitoring of marine mammals in Hong Kong waters | To collect data on the distribution and abundance of marine mammals. |
| Assessment of environmental contaminants in marine mammals | To assess levels of heavy metals and organic contaminants in tissue samples and their potential threats to marine mammals. |
| Investigation of marine mammal stranding and publicity activities | To examine stranding of marine mammals and promote reporting of stranding incidents. |
| Study on octocorals and black corals in Hong Kong waters | To examine the distribution, abundance and diversity of octocorals and black corals in Hong Kong waters. |
| Photo and video exhibition on coastal and marine life of Hong Kong | To enhance the public's understanding of the importance of marine conservation. |
| Underwater video and photography of marine life in Hong Kong waters | To take underwater video and photography of marine life in Hong Kong for production of publicity materials. |
| Hong Kong Reef Check 2008 | To conduct annual Reef Check survey to monitor the health status of coral communities in Hong Kong waters. |
| Production of publicity materials | To produce publicity materials such as booklets, leaflets, posters, stickers, bookmarks, etc to promote the conservation and protection of our marine environment. |

- (b) As minor conservation projects and studies are conducted regularly, they are charged under the recurrent operating account.

Signature _____

Name in block letters MISS CHEUNG SIU HING

Post Title Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date 17 March 2009

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB028

Question Serial No.

1458

Head: 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead:

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

- (a) What is the manpower involved in the management of geopark? Will there be any increase in manpower in this aspect?
- (b) What plans do the Government have in promoting the geological features in Hong Kong? What is the expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon. WONG Yung-kan

Reply:

- (a) The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) has just started the preparatory work for establishing the geopark and associated designation of new special areas and marine parks. Upon finalization of the designation plan, the Government will formulate the future resources requirements in the management of the geopark.
- (b) The AFCD will embark on various educational and publicity activities, including school education visits, guided tours, development of geo-trails and renovation of visitor centres to promote geo-conservation. In parallel, it has started preparing for the nomination of the proposed geopark as a national geopark, and the designation of new special areas and marine parks to step up the protection of selected sites of geological interests. In 2009-10, AFCD has earmarked \$7 million for the promotion of geo-conservation and preparatory work for establishing the geopark.

Signature _____

Name in block letters MISS CHEUNG SIU HING

Post Title Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date 16 March 2009

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB029

Question Serial No.

1459

Head: 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead:

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

- (a) What is the existing staff establishment for hill fire prevention duties?
- (b) In 2009-10, will there be any education programmes on hill fire prevention and plans on installing fire prevention/fighting facilities? What are the details? What is the expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon. WONG Yung-kan

Reply:

- (a) In 2009-10, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department will deploy some 250 staff to man fire fighting teams and fire lookouts at strategic locations to detect and fight hill fires during the dry season. The existing deployment is similar.
- (b) Educational programmes and publicity activities on hill fire prevention will be strengthened through public announcements, production and distribution of leaflets, village visits, media briefings and press tours. During days of high fire risks, country park patrols will be stepped up to advise visitors on hill fire prevention and to enforce against any unauthorized use of fire. The expenditure involved in undertaking the various activities and maintaining facilities relating to preventing and fighting hill fires in 2009 is estimated to be \$38 million.

Signature _____

Name in block letters MISS CHEUNG SIU HING

Post Title Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date 16 March 2009

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB030

Question Serial No.

1460

Head: 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Subhead:

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

Please provide details of the Government's tree planting schemes for different country parks in 2009-10, including numbers and types of trees to be planted and the expenditure involved.

Asked by: Hon. WONG Yung-kan

Reply:

In 2009-10, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department will plant 700 000 tree seedlings at various country parks. Among them, 460 000 seedlings will be native species and 240 000 seedlings will be exotic species. The estimated total material and labour costs for the planting work is about \$7.4 million.

Signature _____

Name in block letters MISS CHEUNG SIU HING

Post Title Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date 16 March 2009

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 33 Civil Engineering and Subhead :
 Development Department

Programme : (7) Management of Construction and Demolition Materials

Controlling Officer : Director of Civil Engineering and Development

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question :

Why the estimated amount of public fill to be received at public fill reception facilities in 2009 will increase to 16.7 million tonnes, more than double of the amount of 7.9 million tonnes in 2008?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Hak-kan

Reply :

We estimate that the amount of public fill to be received in 2009 will increase substantially comparing with that of 2008. The reason is to cater for the surplus public fill generated from major infrastructure projects in the continuing development of Hong Kong. These include, for example, the public fill generated from site formation for the Development at Anderson Road, the removal of the surplus public fill on top of the Stage 2 Reclamation at Penny's Bay, and the rock and soil generated in excavation for the drainage tunnel projects at Hong Kong West and Tsuen Wan.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

JOHN S V CHAI

Post Title _____

Director of Civil Engineering and Development

Date _____

20.3.2009

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 33 Civil Engineering and Development Department Subhead :

Programme : (7) Management of Construction and Demolition Materials

Controlling Officer : Director of Civil Engineering and Development

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question :

With regard to the delivery of surplus public fill for beneficial reuse in the Mainland, in which districts and by which organisations in the Mainland was it mainly used? What was the mode of payment for the delivery charges? How to enhance and review the scheme?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Hak-kan

Reply :

With the agreement of the State Oceanic Administration (SOA), a trial scheme to deliver surplus public fill to Taishan started in July 2007. The Civil Engineering and Development Department (CEDD) has appointed a contractor to manage its public fill reception facilities and the delivery arrangement to Taishan, and the delivery charges were paid to the contractor as part of the contract payments.

The Environment Bureau and CEDD have been maintaining regular liaison with SOA and other relevant Mainland authorities to review the delivery arrangement. As a result, the SOA has recently agreed to continue with the delivery of public fill to Taishan and to examine the feasibility of providing more receptor sites to accommodate the increasing amount of surplus public fill expected to be generated from major infrastructure development projects in the next few years.

Signature _____

Name in block letters JOHN S V CHAI

Post Title Director of Civil Engineering and Development

Date 17.3.2009

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

ENB033

Question Serial No.

2674

Head : 33 Civil Engineering and Subhead :
Development Department

Programme : (7) Management of Construction and Demolition Materials

Controlling Officer : Director of Civil Engineering and Development

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question :

- (a) Under this Programme, the estimated amount of public fill to be received at public fill reception facilities in 2009 will increase to 16.7 million tonnes. What are the reasons?
- (b) There will be an increase in the amount of public fill to be received in 2009. However, there will be no corresponding increase in the amount of public fill to be delivered to the Mainland. To the contrary, the 2009 estimate is less than the 2008 figure. What are the reasons?

Asked by : Hon. IP Wai-ming

Reply :

- (a) We estimate that the amount of public fill to be received in 2009 will increase substantially comparing with that of 2008. The reason is to cater for the surplus public fill generated from major infrastructure projects in the continuing development of Hong Kong. These include, for example, the surplus materials from site formation for the Development at Anderson Road, the surplus surcharge for Stage 2 Reclamation at Penny's Bay, the rock and soil generated in excavation for drainage tunnels at Hong Kong West and Tsuen Wan.

- (b) The Environment Bureau and the Civil Engineering and Development Department have been maintaining regular liaison with the State Oceanic Administration (SOA) and other relevant Mainland authorities to review the arrangement of cross-boundary delivery of surplus public fill. As a result, SOA has recently agreed to continue with the delivery of public fill to Taishan with an amount of 10.0 million tonnes in 2009, which is similar to the actual amount of 10.3 million tonnes delivered in 2008. SOA has also agreed to examine the feasibility of providing more receptor sites to accommodate the increasing amount of surplus public fill expected to be generated from major infrastructure development projects in the next few years. Subject to the final agreement of SOA and other relevant Mainland authorities, the delivery quantity will have a corresponding increase in 2010 to match the pace of public fill generation.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

JOHN S V CHAI

Post Title _____

Director of Civil Engineering and Development

Date _____

23.3.2009

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 33 Civil Engineering and Subhead :
Development Department

Programme : (7) Management of Construction and Demolition Materials

Controlling Officer : Director of Civil Engineering and Development

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question :

The Department estimates that the amount of public fill to be received at public fill reception facilities will increase from 7.9 million tonnes in 2008 to 16.7 million tonnes in 2009. What are the reasons?

Asked by : Hon. LEE Wai-king, Starry

Reply :

We estimate that the amount of public fill to be received in 2009 will increase substantially comparing with that of 2008. The reason is to cater for the surplus public fill generated from major infrastructure projects in the continuing development of Hong Kong. These include, for example, the public fill generated from site formation for the Development at Anderson Road, the removal of the surplus public fill on top of the Stage 2 Reclamation at Penny's Bay, and the rock and soil generated in excavation for the drainage tunnel projects at Hong Kong West and Tsuen Wan.

Signature _____

Name in block letters JOHN S V CHAI

Post Title Director of Civil Engineering and Development

Date 20.3.2009

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 33 Civil Engineering and Development Department Subhead
(No. & title) :

Programme : (7) Management of Construction and Demolition Materials

Controlling Officer : Director of Civil Engineering and Development

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question :

The amount of inert hard construction and demolition (C&D) materials recycled has decreased from 0.36 million tonnes in 2007 to the estimated 0.10 million tonnes in 2009. What are the reasons?

Asked by : Hon. LEE Wai-king, Starry

Reply :

The recycling of inert hard C&D materials is driven by demand. We estimate that the 0.1 million tonnes of C&D materials to be recycled in 2009, together with the present stockpile of about 0.2 million tonnes, will be sufficient to meet the consumption demand.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ **JOHN S V CHAI**

Post Title _____ Director of Civil Engineering and Development

Date _____ 18.3.2009

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 33 Civil Engineering and Subhead :
Development Department

Programme : (7) Management of Construction and Demolition Materials

Controlling Officer : Director of Civil Engineering and Development

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question :

Will the Government explain the reasons for the drastic increase in the estimated expenditure for the management of construction and demolition (C&D) materials? What is the composition of that cost?

Asked by : Hon. SHEK Lai-him, Abraham

Reply :

The increase in the estimated expenditure for management of C&D materials in 2009-10 is due to the expected increase in the quantity of public fill arising from mega infrastructure projects to be handled at the two temporary fill banks at Tseung Kwan O and Tuen Mun, which are approaching the limits of their storage capacities, and for delivering surplus public fill to Taishan for reclamation use. The estimated expenditure is composed of contract payments, related staff costs and administrative overheads.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ JOHN S V CHAI

Post Title _____ Director of Civil Engineering and Development

Date _____ 19.3.2009

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 33 Civil Engineering and Development Department Subhead
(No. & title) :

Programme : (7) Management of Construction and Demolition Materials

Controlling Officer : Director of Civil Engineering and Development

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question :

Under “Matters requiring special attention 2009-10”, it is said that the Government would continue to plan for the setting up of long-term construction and demolition (C&D) materials handling facilities. In this connection, will the Government inform us the locations identified for such construction? Will the Government continue its negotiations with the Mainland authorities in identifying other feasible locations as reception points for C&D materials?

Asked by : Hon. SHEK Lai-him, Abraham

Reply :

The long-term C&D materials handling facilities are for providing one-stop service in the receipt and handling of C&D materials. They will replace the existing temporary fill banks and sorting facilities at Tseung Kwan O Area 137 and Tuen Mun Area 38. We are actively assessing the choice of suitable sites for the long-term facilities and committed to consult the public including the relevant District Councils on the details of the long-term facilities.

The Environment Bureau and the Civil Engineering and Development Department have been maintaining regular liaison with the State Oceanic Administration (SOA) and other relevant Mainland authorities to review the arrangement of cross-boundary delivery of surplus public fill. As a result, SOA has recently agreed to continue with the delivery of public fill to Taishan and to examine the feasibility of providing more receptor sites to accommodate the increasing amount of surplus public fill expected to be generated from major infrastructure development projects in the next few years.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

JOHN S V CHAI

Post Title _____

Director of Civil Engineering and Development

Date _____

20.3.2009

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head: 39 – Drainage Services Department Subhead:

Programme: (2) Sewage Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Drainage Services

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question How many appeal cases of sewage charge and trade effluent surcharge were there in 2007-08 and 2008-09? Of which, how many were from the restaurant trade? How many appeal cases were approved? Of which, how many were from the restaurant trade? What is the average time needed to complete the processing of a case?

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply:

The number of applications and approved cases for reassessment of trade effluent surcharge (TES) rate and discharge factor for sewage charge and TES in 2007-08 and 2008-09 are as follows:

| | 2007-08 | 2008-09 (for 11 months only)⁽²⁾ |
|---|----------------|---|
| Number of applications received for reassessment of TES rate | | |
| All trades | 335 | 188 |
| Restaurant trade | 264 | 121 |
| Number of applications approved⁽¹⁾ | | |
| All trades | 471 | 181 |
| Restaurant trade | 449 | 113 |
| Number of applications received for reassessment of discharge factor | | |
| All trades | 37 | 23 |
| Restaurant trade | 0 | 0 |
| Number of applications approved | | |
| All trades | 39 | 8 |
| Restaurant trade | 0 | 0 |

Notes:

1. As there is a time lag for processing the applications, the number of applications approved within a year may exceed the number of applications received.
2. The drop in the number of applications received in 2008-09 is mainly due to the extension of the validity period of TES reassessments from one year to two years with effect from 1 July 2007 and then from two years to three years with effect from 1 August 2008.

It normally takes three to four months to process a case.

Signature _____

Name in block letters K K LAU

Post Title Director of Drainage Services

Date 17 March 2009

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head: 39 – Drainage Services Department Subhead:

Programme: (2) Sewage Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Drainage Services

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question: What are the expenditure involved and manpower required for repair and maintenance of sewage treatment facilities in 2007-08 and 2008-09? How much is spent on the maintenance of sewers for the same periods?

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply:

The apportionment of the expenditure involved and number of staff required for the repair and maintenance of sewage treatment facilities in 2007-08 and 2008-09 are listed below:

| | 2007-08 (Actual) | 2008-09 (Revised Estimate) |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Expenditure (\$ million) | 559 | 563 |
| Number of staff | 635 | 629 |

The above have included the expenditure for maintenance of sewers in the same periods:

| | 2007-08 (Actual) | 2008-09 (Revised Estimate) |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Expenditure (\$ million) | 185 | 188 |

Signature _____

Name in block letters K K LAU

Post Title Director of Drainage Services

Date 17 March 2009

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head: 39 – Drainage Services Department Subhead: 000 Operational Expenses

Programme: (2) Sewage Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Drainage Services

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question: In the Details of Expenditure by Subhead, it is indicated that the salaries expenditure will increase by about \$20 million in 2009-10; on the other hand, seven posts will be deleted under Programme (2). Please advise:

- (a) How much savings on salaries expenditure will be resulted from the deletion of the seven posts under Programme (2)?
- (b) What are the main grade and rank of the seven posts to be deleted? How will the Administration re-distribute the duties originally assigned to these posts?
- (c) What is the reason for the increase in salaries expenditure for the Drainage Services Department?

Asked by: Hon. IP Wai-ming

Reply:

- (a) The net decrease of seven posts under Programme (2) in 2009-10 is the net effect of the deletion of nine posts and creation of two new posts. It will result in a net saving of salaries expenditure of about \$70,000 in terms of Notional Annual Mid Point Salary value.
- (b) The posts to be deleted include Artisan (Electrical and Mechanical) and Workman II. Contractors will be employed to provide the required services.
- (c) The increase in salaries expenditure is due to the filling of existing vacancies and new posts by new recruits.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ K K LAU

Post Title _____ Director of Drainage Services

Date _____ 17 March 2009

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head: 39 – Drainage Services Department Subhead:

Programme: (2) Sewage Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Drainage Services

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question: Under the Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2009–10, it is mentioned that the Administration will commence the construction of the upgrading works of the Pillar Point sewage treatment works by way of Design-Build-Operate procurement arrangement. Please explain:

- (a) the details of the works and the procurement arrangement;
- (b) whether the works will affect the environment and the residents in the vicinity; and
- (c) whether the procurement arrangement will affect the existing workers of the sewage treatment plant (such as remuneration, employment contract, etc.).

Asked by: Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply:

- (a) The proposed works include upgrading of the existing preliminary sewage treatment works to provide chemically enhanced primary treatment with disinfection and increase the treatment capacity from 215 000 cubic metres to 241 000 cubic metres per day. In order to achieve the most economical design to reduce the whole life cycle costs, the contractor will be required to design, build and operate the plant for a maximum period of 15 years. We plan to make a submission to the Public Works Subcommittee/Finance Committee within the current Legislative Council session.
- (b) The environmental impact assessment completed in 2008 concluded that the proposed works would reduce pollution load resulting in the improvement of the water quality at Tuen Mun. Besides, with the implementation of suitable mitigation measures, the proposed works would not give rise to unacceptable environmental impacts during construction and operation.
- (c) The existing Pillar Point sewage treatment works is operated by only a few staff members. They will be redeployed to work in other sewage handling facilities.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ **K K LAU**

Post Title _____ **Director of Drainage Services**

Date _____ **17 March 2009**

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head: 39 – Drainage Services Department Subhead:

Programme: (2) Sewage Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Drainage Services

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question: The Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2009-10 include the construction of the upgrading works of the Shek Wu Hui sewage treatment works, Tai Po sewage treatment works stage 5 extension and Shatin sewage treatment works stage 3 extension. On this, may I ask the Administration:

- (a) Currently, sewage discharged in Hong Kong is treated under a three-level treatment system. Please provide the volume of sewage receiving treatment at each level in 2008;
- (b) How do the above extension works help in improving sewage treatment in Hong Kong? What are the estimates for them?
- (c) Has the Administration ever considered upgrading the level of sewage treatment in Hong Kong to secondary in the long term and upgrading the facilities for such purpose?

Asked by: Hon. WONG Kwok-kin

Reply:

- (a) The quantities of sewage receiving preliminary, primary (including Chemical Enhanced Primary Treatment) and secondary treatment in 2008 are as follows:

| Treatment level | Volume of sewage treated (million cubic metre) |
|------------------------|---|
| Preliminary | 289 |
| Primary | 532 |
| Secondary | 169 |
| Total | 990 |

- (b) The upgrading works will increase the treatment capacity as well as the nutrient and bacteria removal capabilities. Their project estimates are appended below:

| Project | Capacity before upgrading (cubic metre/day) | Capacity after upgrading (cubic metre/day) | Project Estimate (\$ million) |
|---|--|---|--------------------------------------|
| Shek Wui Hui sewage treatment works | 80 000 | 93 000 | 220 |
| Tai Po sewage treatment works stage 5 extension (phases 1 and 2A) ^{Note} | 88 000 | 100 000 | 520 |
| Shatin sewage treatment works stage 3 extension | 150 000 | 340 000 | 2,430 |

Note:

The project “Tai Po sewage treatment works stage 5 extension” is implemented in three phases, namely phase 1, 2A and 2B. Phase 2B will increase the plant capacity to 120 000 cubic metre/day. The latest project estimate is \$680 million, funding of which is subject to the approval of the Finance Committee.

- (c) The Administration takes into account the assimilative capacity and the impacts of discharges on sensitive water receivers, if any, in the specific receiving water bodies in deciding whether it is necessary and appropriate to upgrade certain sewage treatment facilities and the appropriate levels of sewage treatment.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ K K LAU

Post Title _____ Director of Drainage Services

Date _____ 20 March 2009

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head: 39 – Drainage Services Department Subhead:

Programme: (2) Sewage Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Drainage Services

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question: To explore the possibility of producing useable reclaimed water from treated sewage as a way to exploit water resources is research project for various countries, but the respective Programme has made no mention about such research. Please advise:

- (a) the progress of the reclaimed water trial scheme in Hong Kong and the expenditure on such research in 2008-09; and
- (b) the plan for the research in reclaimed water and the respective estimate in 2009-10.

Asked by: Hon. WONG Kwok-kin

Reply:

- (a) The use of reclaimed water is one of the initiatives of the total water management under the control of Head 194 (Water Supplies Department). The Drainage Services Department (DSD) is one of the stakeholder departments. The use of reclaimed water has been studied in pilot schemes at Shek Wu Hui and Ngong Ping. We have reviewed the study results in February 2009. The preliminary indications are that non-potable use of reclaimed water was technically feasible. The total expenditure incurred in relation to these two pilot studies in 2008-09 is about \$3.8 million.
- (b) We will explore the opportunities for the provision of reclaimed water to Sheung Shui and Fanling areas for toilet flushing and other non-potable uses. The Department will spend about \$25 million in 2009-10 for a study project on the trial in-plant applications of reclaimed water of different purity level at various sewage treatment works of DSD. A number of treatment technologies will be put to test.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ K K LAU

Post Title _____ Director of Drainage Services

Date _____ 19 March 2009

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head: 42 – Electrical and Mechanical Services Department Subhead:

Programme: (3) Energy Efficiency and Conservation, and Alternative Energy

Controlling Officer: Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question: What resources have the Administration put into the promotion of the application of the voluntary Energy Efficiency Labelling Scheme (EELS) in 2008-09 and how about the resources to be dedicated for continuation of such promotion in 2009-10? Is there any plan to increase the coverage of appliances under the voluntary EELS?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Hak-kan

Reply:

The voluntary EELS has now covered 19 types of appliances. The manpower deployed to manage the voluntary EELS in 2008-09 and 2009-10 includes one Senior Engineer, one Engineer/Assistant Engineer and one Assistant Electrical Inspector. The direct expenditure for preparing publicity and promotional materials for the voluntary EELS was \$40,000 in 2008-09 and the estimated expenditure in 2009-10 would be about the same. In 2009-10, the Department will continue to encourage more importers and suppliers to join the voluntary EELS and to raise the public awareness on the energy labels through various promotional activities, such as distribution of posters and pamphlets, campaigns and talks to trade members and schools. The Department will continue to monitor the international development and local situations and review our need to introduce new types of appliances.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ **HO KWONG WAI**

Post Title _____ **Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services**

Date _____ **13 March 2009**

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head: 42 – Electrical and Mechanical Services Department Subhead:

Programme: (3) Energy Efficiency and Conservation, and Alternative Energy

Controlling Officer: Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question: Regarding the item to “continue research and development works on the application of innovative energy efficiency technologies”, what were/will be the expenditures involved in 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10? Which department or organisation was/will be responsible and what were/are the study projects?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Hak-kan

Reply:

The research and development studies on the application of innovative energy efficiency technologies in 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10 were/will be carried out by the Energy Efficiency Office of the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department. The studies and the total cost are summarised below:

| | 2007-08 | 2008-09 | 2009-10 |
|-------------------|---|--|--|
| Study 1 | Dual cycle heat pump system | Sun tracking photovoltaic system | Total hydronic balancing of chilled water circuits |
| Study 2 | Pump control optimisation for air-conditioning system | Oil-free variable speed compressor chiller | Heat pipe application in central air-conditioning system |
| Study 3 | Solar-assisted air-conditioning system | Refrigerant oil contamination purger | New energy efficient lighting |
| Total cost | \$2.50 million | \$2.13 million | \$1.27 million |

Signature _____

Name in block letters **HO KWONG WAI**

Post Title **Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services**

Date **13 March 2009**

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head: 42 – Electrical and Mechanical Services Department Subhead:

Programme: (3) Energy Efficiency and Conservation, and Alternative Energy

Controlling Officer: Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question: How much was the expenditure involved in the promotion of public awareness of energy efficiency and conservation and the use of renewable energy in 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10? What were/are the activity details? How to measure the effectiveness of the promotional activities?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Hak-kan

Reply:

The expenditure for promoting public awareness of energy efficiency and conservation and the use of renewable energy in 2007-08 was \$0.7 million, and that in 2008-09 and 2009-10 is estimated to be \$0.6 million for each year. The promotional activities include:

- conducting seminars for professional bodies, property development and management companies, schools and interested groups on energy efficiency and conservation;
- arranging tours for organisations such as schools and professional bodies to the Education Path of the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department Headquarters Building, which is installed with various renewable energy systems like photovoltaic panels, wind turbines and sun pipes, etc., and have some interactive exhibits providing information on energy issues, renewable and clean energy technologies, energy efficiency schemes, energy efficient building services features, and energy data, etc.;
- organising energy saving competitions and carnivals to promote public awareness and support on energy saving measures;
- distributing promotional leaflets and newsletters to the public on energy efficiency and related matters; and
- providing information on energy efficiency and conservation and renewable energy on the Internet.

The effectiveness of the promotional activities are measured by the participation rate and feedbacks from the participants. The activities held, such as seminars, were usually well over-subscribed with positive feedback from participants.

Signature _____

Name in block letters HO KWONG WAI

Post Title Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

Date 19 March 2009

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head: 42 – Electrical and Mechanical Services Subhead:
Department

Programme: (3) Energy Efficiency and Conservation, and Alternative Energy

Controlling Officer: Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question: As mentioned under the Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2009-10, the Department will implement the first phase of the mandatory Energy Efficiency Labelling Scheme (EELS) and make proposal for the second phase of the scheme. Please advise the relevant work plan, timetable and estimated expenditure.

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Tanya

Reply:

The Energy Efficiency (Labelling of Products) Ordinance (the Ordinance) was enacted on 9 May 2008, with an 18-month grace period for the trades to make the necessary preparation for the implementation of the first phase of the mandatory EELS. Upon the expiry of the grace period on 8 November 2009, energy labels will be required to be shown on the three prescribed products, namely room air-conditioners, refrigerating appliances and compact fluorescent lamps, for supply in Hong Kong. The Government will continue its efforts in promoting the scheme to the public and the trades. The estimated expenditure in 2009-10 is about \$200,000.

The Government has pledged in the 2008-09 Policy Address to propose legislative amendments to the Ordinance in 2009 for the implementation of the second phase of the mandatory EELS. The Government has prepared the necessary information for law drafting and has set up a taskforce to consult relevant trades and stakeholders in the first quarter of 2009. It is envisaged that the consultation with the trades will complete in the third quarter of 2009, and the amendment proposal will then be ready for submission to the Legislative Council by the fourth quarter of 2009. It is premature to estimate the required expenditure of the second phase of the scheme at this stage.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ **HO KWONG WAI** _____

Post Title _____ **Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services** _____

Date _____ **18 March 2009** _____

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head: 42 – Electrical and Mechanical Services Department
Subhead:

Programme: (3) Energy Efficiency and Conservation, and Alternative Energy

Controlling Officer: Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question: In 2009-10, the Department will address the issue of energy wastage of external lighting. Please advise the details of the work plan and the estimated expenditure. Would the Department also address light pollution issues that may arise from external lighting at the same time? If yes, please advise the associated work plan and the estimated expenditure. If not, please advise why.

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Tanya

Reply:

The consultancy studies to address the issue of energy wastage of external lighting will be conducted in 2009-10. The studies will cover overseas practices in guiding and regulating external lighting and a survey on the impacts of external lighting in Hong Kong. It is estimated that the studies will cost about \$4 million. In assessing the impact of external lighting, its impact on sensitive receivers will also be covered.

Signature _____

Name in block letters HO KWONG WAI

Post Title Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

Date 16 March 2009

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head: 42 – Electrical and Mechanical Services Subhead:
Department

Programme: (3) Energy Efficiency and Conservation, and Alternative Energy

Controlling Officer: Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question: Under this Programme, the works of the Department should include research and development on alternative energy and the application of alternative energy technologies. However, under the Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2009-10, these works have not been specifically mentioned. Is there any plan of action for the aforementioned works in 2009-10? If yes, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Tanya

Reply:

While the Department will focus on research and development in the application of innovative energy efficiency technologies in 2009-10, the evaluation of the results of the projects on alternative energy technologies completed in 2007-08 and 2008-09 will continue in 2009-10. These projects include solar-assisted air-conditioning system and sun tracking photovoltaic system. The Department will also continue to pay close attention to the latest development of alternative energy technologies in the market with a view to identifying technologies suitable for application in local situation.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ **HO KWONG WAI** _____

Post Title _____ **Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services** _____

Date _____ **18 March 2009** _____

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head: 42 – Electrical and Mechanical Services Department Subhead:

Programme: (1) Energy Supply; Electrical, Gas and Nuclear Safety

Controlling Officer: Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question: The Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD) has indicated that one of the focuses of work in 2009-10 is to continue to conduct studies on the development of the electricity market structure. Has the Department set any specific direction for the studies in this aspect? If yes, what are the details? What is the specific work plan in this aspect in 2009-10? Moreover, will the Department include the feasibility of inter-connecting the networks of the two power companies and segregating the generation sector from the network sector in the study plan? If yes, what is the detailed arrangement? If not, what is the reason?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Tanya

Reply:

EMSD will provide technical support to the Environment Bureau to conduct studies on the long-term market structure for the electricity market. The studies will cover the exploration of various options of a new market mechanism and the associated regulatory framework for the electricity market, with due regard to the unique situation of Hong Kong. The studies commenced in end January 2009 and are expected to be completed by the end of 2009. Inter-connection between the networks of the two power companies and segregation of the generation sector from the network sector will also be covered in the studies.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ **HO KWONG WAI** _____

Post Title _____ **Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services** _____

Date _____ **16 March 2009** _____

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head: 42 – Electrical and Mechanical Services Department Subhead:

Programme: (3) Energy Efficiency and Conservation, and Alternative Energy

Controlling Officer: Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question : Regarding the four grid-connected renewable energy installations for the renewable energy projects for Government and public bodies, please advise the organisations they belong, the locations of the buildings, the type of renewable energy concerned, the amount of electricity generated and the volume of greenhouse gas emission reduced.

Asked by: Hon. EU Yuet-mee, Audrey

Reply:

All the four grid-connected renewable energy installations completed in 2008 were solar photovoltaic systems. They were installed in the following locations:

- (i) Chek Lap Kok Fire Station, Fire Services Department;
- (ii) Tseung Kwan O Hospital, Hospital Authority;
- (iii) Hong Kong Museum of Coastal Defence, Leisure and Cultural Services Department; and
- (iv) Hong Kong Museum of Art, Leisure and Cultural Services Department.

The above-mentioned grid-connected renewable energy installations can produce a total of around 60 000 kWh of electricity per year, leading to a reduction of carbon dioxide emission of approximately 40 tonnes per annum.

Signature _____

Name in block letters HO KWONG WAI

Post Title Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

Date 13 March 2009

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head: 42 – Electrical and Mechanical Services Subhead:
Department

Programme: (1) Energy Supply; Electrical, Gas and Nuclear Safety

Controlling Officer: Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question: The estimated number of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) filling stations to be approved in 2009 is three, which is higher than one number of LPG filling station approved in 2008 and two in 2007. What is the reason for the difference?

Asked by: Hon. EU Yuet-mee, Audrey

Reply:

To make refilling more convenient for LPG vehicles, the Administration has a standing policy since 2000 to include LPG filling facility requirement in land sales for new petrol filling stations, subject to safety requirements being met. The difference in the respective numbers of LPG filling stations approved in 2007, 2008, and 2009 is due to variance in the availability schedule of new LPG filling stations from year to year.

Signature _____

Name in block letters HO KWONG WAI

Post Title Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

Date 13 March 2009

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head: 42 – Electrical and Mechanical Services Department Subhead:

Programme: (3) Energy Efficiency and Conservation, and Alternative Energy

Controlling Officer: Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question: One of the indicators in the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department's Estimates 2009-10 is research and development on the application of innovative energy efficiency technologies. What were/will be the scope of the three studies conducted in 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10? How was/will the approved funding be assigned to each of the studies?

Asked by: Hon. HO Sau-lan, Cyd

Reply:

The scope of the studies in 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10 and the total cost are summarised below:

| | 2007-08 | 2008-09 | 2009-10 |
|-----------------------------------|---|--|--|
| Study 1 | Dual cycle heat pump system (\$0.40 million) | Sun tracking photovoltaic system (\$0.50 million) | Total hydronic balancing of chilled water circuits (\$0.48 million) |
| Study 2 | Pump control optimisation for air-conditioning system (\$1.20 million) | Oil-free variable speed compressor chiller (\$1.48 million) | Heat pipe application in central air-conditioning system (\$0.64 million) |
| Study 3 | Solar-assisted air-conditioning system (\$0.90 million) | Refrigerant oil contamination purger (\$0.15 million) | New energy efficient lighting (\$0.15 million) |
| Total cost ^{Note} | \$2.50 million | \$2.13 million | \$1.27 million |

Note: the cost of a project may straddle across two years.

Signature _____

Name in block letters HO KWONG WAI

Post Title Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

Date 16 March 2009

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head: 42 – Electrical and Mechanical Services Department Subhead:

Programme: (3) Energy Efficiency and Conservation, and Alternative Energy

Controlling Officer: Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question: The budget of this Programme for 2009-10 will increase by 123.4%, i.e. \$135.5 million comparing with the revised estimate for 2008-09. The Administration explains that it is due to the creation of two posts, increased provision for procurement of energy-saving equipment for various government departments and subvented organisations, promoting energy efficiency and conservation as well as renewable energy, etc.

Please list out the increased provisions for the above items and the duties of the two new posts.

Asked by: Hon. IP Wai-ming

Reply:

The breakdown of the increase in provision of \$135.5 million for 2009-10 is as follows:

| | Item | \$ million |
|-----|---|-------------------|
| (a) | Creation of two posts | 0.8 |
| (b) | Increased provision for procurement of energy-saving equipment for various government departments and subvented organisations | 130.0 |
| (c) | Promoting energy efficiency and conservation as well as renewable energy, and filling of vacancies | 4.9 |
| (d) | Increased cash flow requirements for a general non-recurrent item | 0.6 |
| | Total | 136.3 |

The above increase is partly offset by the completion of two general non-recurrent items and reduced requirements for plant and equipment, which result in a reduction of \$0.8 million. This gives a net increase of \$135.5 million (i.e. \$136.3 million minus \$0.8 million).

The two new posts will be responsible for the preparatory work for the proposed mandatory implementation of the Building Energy Codes.

Signature _____

Name in block letters HO KWONG WAI

Post Title Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

Date 18 March 2009

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head: 42 – Electrical and Mechanical Services Department Subhead:

Programme: (3) Energy Efficiency and Conservation, and Alternative Energy

Controlling Officer: Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question: Regarding promotion of public awareness on energy efficiency and conservation, please advise:

- (a) the work of the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD) in the past two years (i.e. 2007-08 and 2008-09) under this Programme, the expenditure and effectiveness of each item;
- (b) the promotional activities to be held in 2009-10 and the expenditure of each activity; and
- (c) what measures will EMSD introduce to promote energy saving equipment and systems, and application of renewable energy?

Asked by: Hon. KAM Nai-wai

Reply:

- (a) The expenditure for promoting public awareness on energy efficiency and conservation and the use of renewable energy in 2007-08 was \$0.7 million and that in 2008-09 is estimated to be \$0.6 million. The promotional activities include:
 - conducting seminars for professional bodies, property development and management companies, schools and interested groups on energy efficiency and conservation;
 - arranging tours for organisations such as schools and professional bodies to the Education Path of EMSD Headquarters Building, which is installed with various renewable energy systems like photovoltaic panels, wind turbines and sun pipes, etc., and have some interactive exhibits providing information on energy issues, renewable and clean energy technologies, energy efficiency schemes, energy efficient building services features, and energy data, etc.;
 - organising energy saving competitions and carnivals to promote public awareness and support on energy saving measures;
 - distributing promotional leaflets and newsletters to the public on energy efficiency and related matters; and
 - providing information on energy efficiency and conservation and renewable energy on the Internet.

The effectiveness of promotional activities is measured by the participation rate and feedbacks from participants. The activities held, such as seminars, were usually well over-subscribed with positive feedback from participants.

- (b) The above-mentioned promotional activities will continue in 2009-10 and the estimated expenditure is about \$0.6 million.

- (c) To promote the use of energy saving equipment and systems, and application of renewable energy, EMSD has developed the HK Sustainable Technology Net (<http://sustech.emsd.gov.hk>). The website aims to provide comprehensive information on environment-friendly technologies with emphasis on those technologies suitable for applications in Hong Kong, and facilitating wider adoption of such technologies.

Signature _____

Name in block letters HO KWONG WAI

Post Title Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

Date 19 March 2009

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head: 42 – Electrical and Mechanical Services Department Subhead:

Programme: (3) Energy Efficiency and Conservation, and Alternative Energy

Controlling Officer: Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question: Please provide the breakdown of the increase in provision under this Programme for the following items:

- (a) creation of two new posts;
- (b) increased provision for procurement of energy-saving equipment for various government departments and subvented organisations;
- (c) promoting energy efficiency and conservation as well as renewable energy, and filling of vacancies; and
- (d) increased cash flow requirement for a general non-recurrent item.

Asked by: Hon. LEE Wing-tat

Reply:

The breakdown of the increase in provision of \$135.5 million for 2009-10 is as follows:

| Item | \$ million |
|---|-------------------|
| (a) Creation of two posts | 0.8 |
| (b) Increased provision for procurement of energy-saving equipment for various government departments and subvented organisations | 130.0 |
| (c) Promoting energy efficiency and conservation as well as renewable energy, and filling of vacancies | 4.9 |
| (d) Increased cash flow requirements for a general non-recurrent item | 0.6 |
| Total | 136.3 |

The above increase is partly offset by the completion of two general non-recurrent items and the reduced requirements for plant and equipment, which result in a reduction of \$0.8 million. This gives a net increase of \$135.5 million (i.e. \$136.3 million minus \$0.8 million).

Signature _____

Name in block letters HO KWONG WAI

Post Title Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

Date 16 March 2009

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head: 42 – Electrical and Mechanical Services Department Subhead:

Programme: (3) Energy Efficiency and Conservation, and Alternative Energy

Controlling Officer: Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question: Regarding the indicators “energy-saving projects for Government and public bodies” and “renewable energy projects for Government and public bodies”, please advise:

(a) the reasons for the decreasing numbers of energy-saving projects completed in recent years; and has the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD) kept reviewing the effectiveness of the completed energy-saving projects; and

(b) the reasons for the rather small numbers of renewable energy projects; and will there be any new renewable energy projects in 2009? If yes, what are the details and how much will the expenditure be?

Asked by: Hon. LEE Wing-tat

Reply:

- (a) To gain the maximum effect of energy saving for government premises, the energy-saving projects have been planned to be completed as early as possible. Therefore, the number of projects completed in the first few years was more than that in the subsequent years. Following the plan to allocate \$130 million in 2009-10 to fund more energy-saving projects in government premises, it is envisaged that the total number of energy-saving projects to be completed in 2010 will substantially increase. EMSD has been conducting reviews to measure and verify the effectiveness of the energy-saving projects and will continue to do so.
- (b) The aim of the renewable energy projects implemented by EMSD is to promote wider application of renewable energy installations and to increase public awareness on renewable energy. There are more than 60 renewable energy installations completed by the Government in recent years. Apart from those managed by the Government, there are other renewable energy installations completed in the public sector. In 2009, we shall complete four grid-connected photovoltaic installations and four non grid-connected solar powered lighting installations. The estimated expenditure of these renewable energy installations is \$4 million.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ **HO KWONG WAI**

Post Title _____ **Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services**

Date _____ **18 March 2009**

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head: 42 – Electrical and Mechanical Services Subhead:
Department

Programme: (1) Energy Supply; Electrical, Gas and Nuclear Safety

Controlling Officer: Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question: Regarding the indicator “follow-up inspections and quality assurance visits”, please advise the reasons for the decreased number of such inspections/visits in 2009.

Asked by: Hon. LI Wah-ming, Fred

Reply:

The number of follow-up inspections and quality assurance visits on gas safety conducted in 2007 was increased to 2 647 as a result of stepping up enforcement actions on commercial gas installations to include about 900 inspections/visits of enclosed type gas-fired meat roasters. This was to promote and up-keep their safety standards. In 2008, about 500 inspections of the meat roaster installations were conducted, resulting in a total number of 2 034 inspections/visits for the year. After several rounds of inspection, the safety standards of these commercial gas installations are considered acceptable. The number of inspections/visits in 2009 is therefore estimated to be 2 050 to reflect the prevailing situation.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ **HO KWONG WAI** _____

Post Title _____ **Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services** _____

Date _____ **13 March 2009** _____

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head: 42 – Electrical and Mechanical Services Department Subhead:

Programme: (1) Energy Supply; Electrical, Gas and Nuclear Safety

Controlling Officer: Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question: Regarding liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) vehicles, please advise:

- (a) whether the number of LPG filling stations in Hong Kong will be increased in 2009-10. If so, what are the details?
- (b) What actions will the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD) take in 2009 to reduce the waiting time for refilling of LPG vehicles?

Asked by: Hon. LI Wah-ming, Fred

Reply:

- (a) There are three new LPG filling stations scheduled to be completed in 2009. They are located in Yuen Long, Kwai Chung and Chek Lap Kok.
- (b) At present, there are 12 dedicated and 46 non-dedicated LPG filling stations in Hong Kong. They can support the entire fleet of taxis and light buses to use LPG as fuel. The queuing of LPG vehicles at some dedicated stations during shift-changing peak hours is due to a large number of LPG vehicles going to them for refilling concurrently. The Government has no plan to increase the number of dedicated stations at present. To make refilling more convenient for LPG vehicles, the Government has a standing policy since 2000 to include LPG filling facility requirement in land sales for petrol filling stations, subject to safety requirements being met. Moreover, the Government will continue to encourage LPG vehicle users to go for refilling during off-peak hours through the quarterly liaison meetings between the operators of dedicated stations and the LPG vehicle trades.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ **HO KWONG WAI** _____

Post Title _____ **Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services** _____

Date _____ **13 March 2009** _____

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head: 42 – Electrical and Mechanical Services Department Subhead:

Programme: (3) Energy Efficiency and Conservation, and Alternative Energy

Controlling Officer: Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question: Regarding the promotion of energy efficiency and conservation, please provide the following information:

- (a) The project details, the expenditure of each project and the effectiveness of the energy efficiency and conservation projects implemented by the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD) for government departments in the past two years (i.e. 2007-08 and 2008-09).
- (b) The expenditure for the energy efficiency and conservation projects to be implemented in the next three years (i.e. 2009-10 to 2011-12).

Asked by: Hon. LI Wah-ming, Fred

Reply:

- (a) EMSD has completed a total of 128 energy-saving projects in the past two years (73 in 2007 and 55 in 2008). The scope of these projects include replacement of general and emergency lighting by more energy efficient lighting such as T5 fluorescent light fittings and Light Emitting Diode (LED) exit signs; retrofitting of air-conditioning plants, lifts and escalators; and use of high efficiency pumps and motors, etc. The total expenditure for implementation of these energy-saving projects in 2007-08 and 2008-09 was about \$43 million each year. The total amount of energy saved from the implementation of those projects that commenced in 2007-08 and 2008-09 will be about 13 million kWh per year when the projects are completed.
- (b) The total expenditure for implementation of energy-saving projects for government departments for 2009-10 is \$177 million. The expenditure for the energy-saving projects to be implemented for government departments in 2010-11 and 2011-12 is yet to be determined.

Signature _____

Name in block letters HO KWONG WAI

Post Title Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

Date 18 March 2009

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head: 42 – Electrical and Mechanical Services Department Subhead:

Programme: (1) Energy Supply; Electrical, Gas and Nuclear Safety

Controlling Officer: Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question Regarding the studies on the long-term market structure for the electricity market under the Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2009-10, please advise the work to be carried out by the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD) in the next three years (i.e. 2009-10 to 2011-12) and the estimated expenditure to be involved.

Asked by: Hon. LI Wah-ming, Fred

Reply:

EMSD will provide technical support to the Environment Bureau to conduct studies on the long-term market structure for the electricity market. The studies will cover the exploration of various options of a new market mechanism and the associated regulatory framework for the electricity market, with due regard to the unique situation of Hong Kong. The cost of such technical support will be absorbed by existing resources.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ **HO KWONG WAI** _____

Post Title _____ **Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services** _____

Date _____ **16 March 2009** _____

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head: 42 – Electrical and Mechanical Services Subhead:
Department

Programme: (3) Energy Efficiency and Conservation, and Alternative Energy

Controlling Officer: Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question: Regarding the studies on the issue of energy wastage of external lighting and the phasing out of incandescent light bulbs, please provide the details, including the scope, the expenditure involved and the target completion dates, for the studies.

Asked by: Hon. TO Kun-sun, James

Reply:

The consultancy studies on the issue of energy wastage of external lighting will cover overseas practices in guiding and regulating external lighting and a survey on the impacts of external lighting in Hong Kong. It is estimated that the studies will cost about \$4.0 million and be completed by the end of 2009.

The consultancy studies on the phasing out of incandescent light bulbs will include a review of relevant international practices, an assessment on viable technologies to replace incandescent light bulbs, a survey on the availability of replacement products in the market and a survey on the local use of incandescent light bulbs. The studies will cost about \$1.2 million and be completed by the end of 2009.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ **HO KWONG WAI** _____

Post Title _____ **Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services** _____

Date _____ **16 March 2009** _____

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head: 42 – Electrical and Mechanical Services Department Subhead:

Programme: (1) Energy Supply; Electrical, Gas and Nuclear Safety

Controlling Officer: Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question: Regarding the indicators under this Programme, the Department will approve three liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) filling stations in 2009-10. Would the Administration advise:

- (a) the locations and the progress of these LPG filling stations; and
- (b) whether these new stations will be dedicated LPG filling stations.
- (c) Regarding the problem of long queuing time at the dedicated LPG filling stations, will the Government consider increasing the number of dedicated LPG filling stations to alleviate the problem? If not, what measures will the Government introduce to avoid long queuing at the dedicated LPG filling stations?
- (d) How many inspections of LPG filling stations did the Department conduct in 2008? How many warnings or prosecutions were made? If any, please list out the reasons for making warnings or prosecutions.

Asked by: Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply:

- (a) The three new LPG filling stations scheduled to be completed in 2009 are located in Yuen Long, Kwai Chung and Chek Lap Kok. The first two stations are under construction while the latter one is at the detailed design stage.
- (b) The three new LPG filling stations are not dedicated LPG filling stations.
- (c) At present, there are 12 dedicated and 46 non-dedicated LPG filling stations in Hong Kong. They can support the entire fleet of taxis and light buses to use LPG as fuel. The queuing of LPG vehicles at some dedicated stations during shift-changing peak hours is due to a large number of LPG vehicles going to them for refilling concurrently. The Government has no plan to increase the number of dedicated stations at present. To make refilling more convenient for LPG vehicles, the Government has a standing policy since 2000 to include LPG filling facility requirement in land sales for petrol filling stations, subject to safety requirements being met. Moreover, the Government will continue to encourage LPG vehicle users to go for refilling during off-peak hours through the quarterly liaison meetings between the operators of dedicated stations and the LPG vehicle trades.
- (d) There were 245 inspections of LPG filling stations in 2008. No warning or prosecution was made.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

HO KWONG WAI

Post Title _____

Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

Date _____

13 March 2009

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2009-10
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB065

Question Serial No.

0361

Head : 44 Environmental
Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (1) Waste

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : How many resources will be deployed by the Administration to assist the industries in launching the computer and fluorescent lamp recycling programmes in 2009? What is the expected recovery rate?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Hak-kan

Reply :

The Computer Recycling Programme (CRP) and the Fluorescent Lamp Recycling Programme (FLRP) were launched in January 2008 and March 2008 respectively. These two voluntary programmes are funded and administered by the respective trade to promote the recovery and recycling of used computer equipment and fluorescent lamps/tubes. The respective recovery target for CRP and FLRP is 50 000 pieces and 400 000 pieces per year. The Environmental Protection Department helps to promote these programmes and provide support to their collection services. The associated expenditure is about \$900,000 in 2009-10. We will closely monitor the effectiveness of the programmes with the relevant trades and review the recovery targets after the first two years of implementation.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

20 March 2009

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2009-10
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB066

Question Serial No.

0362

Head : 44 Environmental
Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (1) Waste

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : The Administration would conduct a baseline study aiming at finding out possible options for municipal solid waste charging. What is the expenditure involved for the study concerned? What are the specific details and aspect of the study? When will it be completed?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Hak-kan

Reply :

The baseline study aims to collect information on waste generation pattern and waste management practices among different types of commercial and industrial establishments. The information collected would facilitate the development of practicable municipal solid waste charging options. We aim to complete the study in the second half of 2009. The entire baseline study is estimated to cost \$1.25 million, and the related expenditure in 2009-10 is about \$878,000.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

12 March 2009

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2009-10
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB067

Question Serial No.

0363

Head : 44 Environmental
Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (1) Waste

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : The Administration plans to seek funding approval from the Legislative Council in 2009-10 for the development of sludge treatment facility. What is the amount of the funding concerned? How will such a facility help in the treatment of sludge in future?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Hak-kan

Reply :

In 2009-10, we plan to seek the Legislative Council's funding approval for the design and construction of the sludge treatment facility (STF) at an estimated cost of \$4,730 million in September 2008 prices.

The proposed facility will replace the current practice of disposing of dewatered sewage sludge at landfills which is not an environmentally sustainable disposal method. The STF has a total design capacity of 2 000 tonnes per day. Upon commissioning of Phase I of the STF (with a design capacity of 1 600 tonnes per day) in late 2012, dewatered sewage sludge generated from the Harbour Area Treatment Scheme as well as from ten other regional sewage treatment works will be treated in the STF by means of advanced high temperature incineration technology.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

12 March 2009

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2009-10
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB068

Question Serial No.

0364

Head : 44 Environmental
Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (1) Waste

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : Please advise on the leasing of lots in the EcoPark in Tuen Mun Area 38 in 2007-2008 and 2008-2009. Will the Administration allocate more resources in 2009-2010 to provide incentives for operators to rent the lots? Will the Administration look for other piece of land for constructing a new EcoPark?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Hak-kan

Reply :

The 20-hectare EcoPark in Tuen Mun Area 38 is developed in two phases. Phase I comprises six lots, three of them were leased in 2007-08 and the remaining three in 2008-09. The infrastructure works of Phase II of the EcoPark started in December 2008 and are anticipated to be completed in end 2009. The selection of tenants for the lots will commence thereafter as soon as practicable.

The Environmental Protection Department (EPD) is reviewing the leasing arrangements for the EcoPark Phase II in the light of the experience in Phase I, feedback from the stakeholders and the recycling trades and other relevant factors. We aim to complete the review in time for the intake of tenants before end 2009.

The EPD will monitor closely the progress in developing the EcoPark in Tuen Mun before considering to develop a new EcoPark elsewhere.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

17 March 2009

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2009-10
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB069

Question Serial No.

0365

Head : 44 Environmental Protection Department
Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (1) Waste

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : According to the Administration, the existing 3 landfills are filling up much faster than expected, while the Environmental Protection Department is making good progress in the implementation of the Policy Framework for the Management of Municipal Solid Waste (MSW). In this respect, please advise:

- (a) Why the estimated amount of waste received by landfills in 2009 is 4.95 million tonnes, which is more than that of about 4.94 million tonnes in 2008?
- (b) What is the total amount of MSW reduced since the implementation of the Policy Framework for the Management of MSW? What are the criteria for measuring the effectiveness of the scheme?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Hak-kan

Reply :

- (a) For 2009, it is estimated that the quantity of domestic waste disposed of at landfills will continue to decrease, that of commercial and industrial waste will maintain at an increasing trend while those of construction waste and special waste will not change significantly. Therefore overall speaking, the total quantity of solid waste received at landfills in 2009 is forecasted to be close to that in 2008.
- (b) Since the launch of the Policy Framework for the Management of Municipal Solid Waste (2005-2014) in December 2005, the amount of municipal solid waste (MSW) disposed of at landfills has been maintained at about 3.4 million tonnes per year. In particular, the amount of domestic waste disposed of has been decreasing steadily at about 3 to 4 % every year which has somehow offset the increase in the amount of commercial and industrial waste disposed of at the same time. While the 2008 statistics for MSW are still being compiled, the MSW recovery rate in 2007 has reached 45% which was three years ahead of the interim target set in the Policy Framework. However, the total amount of MSW generated in 2007 has increased by nearly 4% when compared with that in 2005. This was likely to be contributed by the increase in economic activities during this period. We will continue to enhance further our efforts to implement the various waste reduction measures set out in the Policy Framework, such as extending the Source Separation Programme to commercial and industrial buildings, progressively introducing the Producer Responsibility Schemes as well as studying feasible options for waste charging in the coming years.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

13 March 2009

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2009-10
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB070

Question Serial No.

0366

Head : 44 Environmental
Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (2) Air

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : Please advise the amount of resources earmarked in 2009-2010 for continuing the implementation of the technical support programme to promote the adoption of cleaner production technologies and practices by Hong Kong-owned factories in the Pearl River Delta (PRD) Region. As Hong Kong-owned factories are having difficulties in business operation because of the financial tsunami, how does the Administration assess its impact on the implementation of the programme?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Hak-kan

Reply :

In April 2008, we launched a five-year Cleaner Production Partnership Programme in conjunction with the Economic and Trade Commission of Guangdong Province to encourage and facilitate Hong Kong-owned factories operating in the PRD Region to adopt cleaner production technologies and practices, with a view to reducing emissions and enhancing energy efficiency. The Administration has committed some \$93 million over the five-year period from 2008-09 to 2012-13 to resource the Programme. Some \$22.1 million has been set aside for 2009-2010 under the Programme.

The Programme has been designed to provide technical support to Hong Kong-owned factories operating in the PRD region to reduce emissions and enhance energy efficiency through, for instance, conducting on-site improvement assessment and demonstration projects. This will not only help improve their environmental performance but also cut their operating cost by reducing energy usage. The Programme will therefore help enhance the long-term competitiveness of these factories. Overall, the Programme has been quite well received by factory operators. As at end of February this year, some 240 funding applications have been received and a total of 144 funding applications have been processed and approved.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

12 March 2009

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2009-10
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB071

Question Serial No.

0367

Head : 44 Environmental
Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (2) Air

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : Will the Administration increase manpower to work with the Guangdong authorities to jointly formulate a strategy to transform the Pearl River Delta (PRD) region into a green and quality living area? What areas of cooperation are being explored by both sides?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Hak-kan

Reply :

On the basis of the existing cooperation platform, Guangdong and Hong Kong have agreed last year to further deepen and enhance co-operation on the environmental front. Both sides would jointly draw up strategies to transform the PRD Region into a green and quality living area. The new co-operation strategies will be underpinned by the principle of promoting environmental protection and sustainable development, and seeks to develop a more comprehensive and forward looking approach in taking forward regional environmental cooperation. The focus is to develop the PRD Region into a low-carbon, high-technology and low-pollution city cluster of quality living.

Under the proposed new mode of regional environmental co-operation, both sides will continue to take forward current initiatives under the Hong Kong-Guangdong Joint Working Group on Sustainable Development and Environmental Protection. These include continuing to implement emission reduction measures under the Regional Air Quality Management Plan, jointly working towards achievement of the 2010 emission reduction targets, implement measures to improve water quality in the region, and actively promoting energy efficiency and cleaner production amongst industrial enterprises in both places. Both sides will also seek to extend cooperation to other areas in our quest for deepening regional environment co-operation, and to integrate environmental protection into economic development. Initial ideas being explored for enhanced co-operation under this new framework include (1) encouraging wider use of and research in renewable energy; (2) promoting co-operation in respect of the development of the infrastructure and supply of cleaner energy, and drawing up a longer term plan to jointly increase use of cleaner energy; (3) promoting the development of circular economy; (4) facilitating wider use of electric vehicles; (5) enhancing cleaner production in the region; and (6) mapping out an air emission reduction arrangement to jointly tackle the regional air pollution problem. This initiative will help enhance the overall competitiveness and quality of life of the whole region.

Both sides will further consider the cooperation details for transforming the PRD region into a green and quality living area. Whether or not additional manpower would be required for taking forward the strategy needs to be further assessed.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

12 March 2009

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2009-10
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB072

Question Serial No.

0368

Head : 44 Environmental
Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (2) Air

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : Regarding the study to review Hong Kong's Air Quality Objectives, when is it expected to be completed? How many resources will be deployed to launch a comprehensive public consultation? What are the details of the consultation?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Hak-kan

Reply :

We expect the Air Quality Objectives (AQOs) Review consultancy study to be completed in mid 2009. After receipt of the study report, we will launch a comprehensive public consultation to seek views from key stakeholders and the general public on the recommendations of the consultant, including the proposed new AQOs, the package of emission reduction measures required for achieving the new AQOs as well as the pace and price for their implementation. The feedback of the public consultation will help us decide on how best to take the matter forward. The resources required for the public consultation will be covered by the existing provisions.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

11 March 2009

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2009-10
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB073

Question Serial No.

0369

Head : 44 Environmental
Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (2) Air

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : There will be a creation of 13 posts in 2009-10 under this Programme. What are the main duties of these posts? What is the additional payroll cost so involved?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Hak-kan

Reply :

The duties and annual payroll of the 13 posts to be created in 2009 -10 are as follows:

| <u>Duty description</u> | <u>New posts</u> | <u>Annual payroll</u> |
|---|--|------------------------|
| To strengthen the collaboration and liaison with the Guangdong Government with a view to improving the regional environment and promoting cleaner production. | 1 Environmental Protection Officer 1 Senior Environmental Protection Inspector | \$ 0.90 million |
| To support initiatives related to combating climate change and promoting carbon reduction in Hong Kong. | 1 Environmental Protection Officer 1 Environmental Protection Inspector | \$ 0.75 million |
| To enhance the control on air pollution from vehicles and other mobile sources. | 1 Senior Environmental Protection Officer 1 Environmental Protection Officer 1 Senior Environmental Protection Inspector 1 Environmental Protection Inspector | \$ 2.20 million |
| To enhance the monitoring of fine suspended particulates and support assessment of air quality in the Pearl River Delta region. | 1 Senior Environmental Protection Inspector 2 Environmental Protection Inspectors | \$ 0.90 million |
| To develop an air quality management plan for achieving the new air quality objectives. | 1 Environmental Protection Officer 1 Senior Environmental Protection Inspector | \$ 0.90 million |
| TOTAL | | \$ 5.65 million |

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

12 March 2009

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2009-10
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB074

Question Serial No.

0370

Head : 44 Environmental
Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (5) Environmental assessment and planning

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : With major infrastructure projects to be implemented one after another, will there be an increase in manpower and resources for environmental assessment? If yes, what are the expenditures so involved?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Hak-kan

Reply :

The major infrastructure projects will have to fully meet requirements of the Environmental Impact Assessment Ordinance and other relevant environmental legislation under established procedures. The Environmental Protection Department will manage the environmental assessment work using existing manpower and resources.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

12 March 2009

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2009-10
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB075

Question Serial No.

0371

Head : 44 Environmental
Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (6) Nature conservation

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : Please advise the amount of resources earmarked for studying the establishment of a geopark in Hong Kong. What are the details of the study? Will additional manpower be provided to assist with the management and promotion of the park? If yes, what are the expenditures incurred?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Hak-kan

Reply :

For 2009-10, the Environmental Protection Department has not earmarked any fund for the geopark project whereas the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (Head 22) earmarked a total of \$7 million for the proposal of setting up a geopark in Hong Kong. This sum is earmarked for the purposes of preparing for the setting up of a geopark, including organising educational activities, setting up the geopark website, publishing promotional materials, and developing visitor centres. The sum is also earmarked for preparing the submission to the Ministry of Land and Resources of the Central People's Government to list Hong Kong Geopark as a national geopark.

The Government is developing the management plan for the geopark. Upon finalizing the management plan, the Government will formulate the manpower and resources needed.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ **ANISSA WONG**

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____ 18 March 2009

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2009-10
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB076

Question Serial No.

0372

Head : 44 Environmental
Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (1) Waste

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : How many resources have been earmarked by the Administration for carrying out the studies on the construction of large scale waste treatment facilities? What are the details of the studies? Where are those two identified potential sites? How would the said facilities achieve bulk reduction of municipal solid waste after its completion?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Hak-kan

Reply :

We have identified Tsang Tsui in Tuen Mun and Shek Kwu Chau to the south of Lantau Island as two potential sites for the development of the Integrated Waste Management Facilities (IWMF). HK\$20.5 million has been reserved for conducting detailed engineering and Environmental Impact Assessment studies on these two sites to ascertain their overall viability. We shall complete the studies in 2010 and then make a final decision on the choice of site.

The proposed IWMF will use incineration as its core technology which can substantially reduce the volume of municipal solid waste by some 90%.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

12 March 2009

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2009-10
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB077

Question Serial No.

0373

Head : 44 Environmental
Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (1) Waste

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : Please advise the amount of resources spent or to be spent by the Administration in 2007-2008, 2008-2009 and 2009-2010 respectively for promoting waste separation, waste recovery and waste recycling. What criteria are used for evaluating the effectiveness of the scheme?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Hak-kan

Reply :

The Administration has spent or will spend \$13.2 million, \$11.2 million and \$10.7 million in 2007-2008, 2008-2009 and 2009-2010 respectively for promoting waste separation, recovery and recycling. In "A Policy Framework for the Management of Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) (2005-2014)", we have set a target to increase the recovery rate of MSW to 45% by 2009 and 50% by 2014. While we have achieved the first MSW recovery rate of 45% in 2007, we will continue to enhance our efforts in the various waste reduction programmes in order to reduce the generation of waste as well as increase further the recovery rate.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

18 March 2009

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2009-10
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB078

Question Serial No.

0374

Head : 44 Environmental
Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (2) Air

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : What are the details of the work to continue with the study on climate change to assess its impact on Hong Kong? What is the expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Hak-kan

Reply :

In March 2008, the Environmental Protection Department appointed ERM-Hong Kong, Ltd. to conduct "A Study of Climate Change in Hong Kong". The consultancy would review and update the local inventories of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and removals; project the future trends in GHG emissions under different scenarios; characterize the impacts of climate change in Hong Kong; evaluate and recommend additional strategies and measures to further reduce GHG emissions as well as to adapt to climate change. The whole consultancy study is estimated to cost \$8.8 million and will take around 18 months to complete.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

12 March 2009

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2009-10
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB079

Question Serial No.

0375

Head : 44 Environmental
Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (2) Air

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : How many resources will the Administration earmark for the study on how to promote the use of more environment-friendly vehicles? What are the details on that? How to tie in with the promotion of the wider use of electric vehicles in Hong Kong as mentioned in the budget speech?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Hak-kan

Reply :

We are committed to encouraging the use of more environment-friendly vehicles in Hong Kong. For example, we started implementing in April 2007 an incentive scheme for environment-friendly private cars and in April 2008 another one for environment-friendly commercial vehicles. Both schemes offer first registration tax concessions to the eligible vehicles. As at end February 2009, 7191 applications for environment-friendly petrol private cars and 222 applications for environment-friendly commercial vehicles were approved. The total first registration tax forgone under both schemes was \$177 million. The workloads arising from the implementation of these schemes are being absorbed by existing provisions. As part of these efforts and taking account of the benefits to roadside air quality brought about by electric vehicles, the Financial Secretary has announced in the 2009-10 Budget Speech to extend the exemption for electric vehicles from First Registration Tax for another five years. He will also chair a steering committee to look into the wider use of electric vehicles in Hong Kong from a strategic perspective.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

12 March 2009

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2009-10
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB080

Question Serial No.

0554

Head : 44 Environmental
Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (1) Waste

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : After the launching of the construction and demolition waste charging scheme, what was the amount of construction and demolition waste received by landfills, public filling areas and construction and demolition waste sorting facilities annually in the past three years, i.e. 2006-2008? Also, what was the amount of fees received each year?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Hak-kan

Reply :

Since the launching of the construction waste disposal charging scheme at designated waste disposal facilities including landfills, sorting facilities and public fill reception facilities on 20 January 2006, the amounts of construction waste disposed of at these facilities in 2006, 2007 and 2008 are as follows:

| | Landfill ⁽¹⁾ million tonnes [x] | Public Fill Reception Facility ⁽¹⁾ million tonnes [y] | Sorting Facility ⁽²⁾ million tonnes | Total million tonnes [x] + [y] |
|---------------------|--|--|--|--------------------------------------|
| 2006 ⁽³⁾ | 1.37 | 6.06 | 1.46 | 7.43 |
| 2007 | 1.06 | 6.66 | 0.89 | 7.72 |
| 2008 | 0.97 | 7.00 | 0.76 | 7.97 |

(1) Quantities include sorted construction waste delivered from sorting facilities.

(2) Construction waste received at sorting facilities was delivered to landfills and public fill reception facilities after sorting.

(3) From 20 January to 31 December 2006.

The fees received for the disposal of construction waste in 2006 (from 20 January to 31 December), 2007 and 2008 were \$54.8 million, \$149.3 million and \$214.1 million respectively. The increase is mainly due to the gradual expiry of most exemption accounts.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____ 12 March 2009

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2009-10
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB081

Question Serial No.

0555

Head : 44 Environmental
Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (1) Waste

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : On the basis of design capacity, what is the remaining capacity of each strategic landfill? When will different landfills be expected to fill up?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Hak-kan

Reply :

The total design capacity of the three existing landfills, namely the South East New Territories (SENT) Landfill, North East New Territories (NENT) Landfill and West New Territories (WENT) Landfill, is about 140 million cubic metres. Up to the end of 2008, around half of the total landfill capacity has been exhausted.

At present, it is estimated that the remaining landfill capacity will be fully utilized in the next decade, with SENT Landfill being the first to be filled up around 2012 to 2013, and the WENT and NENT Landfills to be filled up in mid to late 2010.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

12 March 2009

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2009-10
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB082

Question Serial No.

0556

Head : 44 Environmental
Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (1) Waste

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : After calculating various factors such as waste transfer facilities, landfill treatment and premium of landfills at present, what is the average cost of solid waste treatment per tonne? What are the changes as compared with the figures in 2007-08?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Hak-kan

Reply :

A breakdown of the average costs for transfer and disposal of waste at landfills in 2008-09 as compared to 2007-08 is given below :

| | 2007-08 | 2008-09 |
|-----------------------|------------|------------|
| | (\$/tonne) | (\$/tonne) |
| Transfer | 200 | 208 |
| Disposal at landfills | 142 | 155 |
| Total cost per tonne | 342 | 363 |

In the estimation of the average cost per tonne for transfer and landfill disposal, we do not take into account the land premium cost.

The increase in the average unit cost in 2008-09 for the transfer and disposal of waste at landfills is mainly due to inflation.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

12 March 2009

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**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB083

Question Serial No.

0557

Head : 44 Environmental
Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (1) Waste

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : Please list the corporations holding the lots in the EcoPark by lease, their total capital injections, types of product manufactured, volumes of annual production as well as the numbers of workers employed.

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Hak-kan

Reply :

The required information on the tenants in Phase I of the EcoPark is summarized below:

| Tenants | Finished Products | Minimum capital investment ^[Note] | Minimum annual throughput ^[Note] |
|---|------------------------------------|--|---|
| Hong Kong Hung Wai Wooden Board Company | Shredded wood chip | \$6 million | 2 400 tonnes |
| Li Tong Group | Dismantled electronic components | \$6 million | 1 200 tonnes |
| Champway Technology Ltd | Biodiesel | \$6 million | 6 000 tonnes |
| Hong Kong Telford Envirotech Group Ltd | Shredded and/or pelletised plastic | \$2 million | 4 000 tonnes |
| Shiu Wing Metal Ltd | Sorted and sheared waste metals | \$8 million | 40 000 tonnes |
| Cosmos Star Holdings Company Ltd | Dismantled battery components | \$2 million | 120 tonnes |

[Note] Figures given are only the minimum capital investment and throughput as required in the respective tenancy agreements because tenants' operations are still at the planning stage.

It is estimated that there would be about 120 jobs created upon full commissioning of the above 6 tenants' recycling operation.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

12 March 2009

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**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB084

Question Serial No.

0558

Head : 44 Environmental
Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (1) Waste

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : Please advise if the Administration is currently providing any subsidy to the management of the EcoPark. If yes, what is the net amount of annual subsidy?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Hak-kan

Reply :

The Environmental Protection Department has engaged a management company to undertake the daily operation and maintenance of the common facilities in the EcoPark which include the administration building, berthing area as well as cleansing and security control. The company also provides professional and facilitating services to tenants in preparation for setting up their operations. In consideration of the service provided, the Government pays the management company a monthly management fee. Such payment is not a subsidy.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

13 March 2009

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2009-10
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB085

Question Serial No.

0559

Head : 44 Environmental
Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (3) Noise

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : What is the number of complaints received by the Administration about the noise arising from modification of automotive parts in the past three years, i.e. from 2006 to 2008?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Hak-kan

Reply :

The Environmental Protection Department received 3 complaints about noise arising from modification of automotive parts during 2006 – 2008.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

12 March 2009

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2009-10
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB086

Question Serial No.

0560

Head : 44 Environmental
Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (3) Noise

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : Is there any legislation governing the noise limits of various types of vehicles? If yes, what is the number of non-compliance cases prosecuted by the Government annually in the past three years, i.e. from 2006 to 2008? What are the maximum and minimum penalties?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Hak-kan

Reply :

New motor vehicles must meet the prescribed noise emission standards stipulated under the Noise Control (Motor Vehicles) Regulation before they can be first registered in Hong Kong with the Transport Department. Since new vehicles not meeting the standards cannot be first registered for operation in Hong Kong, there are no prosecution cases and associated penalties under this Regulation.

For in use vehicles, the Road Traffic (Construction And Maintenance Of Vehicles) Regulations require all vehicles, among other things, to be fitted with a silencer, maintained in good and working order, to control noise. Non-compliance is liable to a fine of \$10,000 and to imprisonment for 6 months. The Police are responsible for enforcing this requirement. The prosecution numbers from 2006 to 2008 are respectively 14, 45 and 18.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

12 March 2009

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2009-10
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB087

Question Serial No.

0561

Head : 44 Environmental
Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (4) Water

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : In Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2009-10, it is mentioned that Hong Kong would continue to co-operate with the Guangdong authorities on cross-boundary water quality management issues. What are the joint projects that are being implemented or being planned? What are the details of and expenditures involved in such projects?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Hak-kan

Reply :

The Environmental Protection Department (EPD) has one on-going and two planned projects to address cross-boundary water quality management issues in collaboration with the Guangdong Environmental Protection Bureau (GEPB) and the Shenzhen Environmental Protection Bureau (SEPB). The details and estimated expenditure of these projects are set out below:

| Project | Details | Estimated Expenditure |
|--|---|---------------------------------|
| First Review of the Mirs Bay Water Quality Regional Control Strategy | The study is being carried out jointly by the EPD and the SEPB. The objective of the study is to examine the additional measures necessary for protecting the Mirs Bay water environment and meeting the sustainable development objectives. The study commenced in December 2008 and is scheduled for completion in March 2011. | HK\$3,500,000 |
| Joint Study on Shenzhen River Contaminated Sediment Remediation Strategy | The study will be carried out jointly by the EPD and the SEPB. The objective of the study is to formulate remediation measures to address the contaminated sediment problem of the Shenzhen River. We aim to commence the study in April 2009. | HK\$12,500,000 |
| Advance Study for Pearl River Estuary Regional Water Quality Joint Management Planning | The study will be carried out jointly by the EPD and the GEPB. The objective is to examine the pollution load carrying capacity of the Pearl River Estuary under different water quality objectives, and the study findings will provide a scientific basis for the establishment of joint water quality protection targets and development of regional water quality management plans for the Pearl River Estuary. We aim to commence the study in late 2009/early 2010. | Cost estimate not yet available |

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

12 March 2009

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2009-10
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INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB088

Question Serial No.

0562

Head : 44 Environmental
Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (6) Nature conservation

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : It is stated in Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2009–10 that the Administration will explore the proposal of establishing a geopark in Hong Kong. Meanwhile, the said work is also mentioned in that of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD). As such, are there any differences in the studies conducted by Environmental Protection Department and AFCD? If yes, what are they? If no, what are the reasons for asking two departments to conduct the same study?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Hak-kan

Reply :

The Environmental Protection Department (EPD) oversees the work of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) as its policy bureau on nature conservation. The EPD, in 2009-10, will work closely with AFCD to explore the proposal of setting up a geopark in Hong Kong.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

11 March 2009

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INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB089

Question Serial No.

0563

Head : 44 Environmental Protection
Department

Subhead (No. & title): 700 General
non-recurrent

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : Please list all contents of the studies under this sub-head, as well as the responsible organizations conducting the studies and the expected completion dates of such studies.

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Hak-kan

Reply :

| Item No. | Content of the Study | Responsible organizations conducting the Study | Expected completion date |
|----------|---|--|--|
| 564 | Study to evaluate the adverse impact of environmental noise on public health in Hong Kong | The Chinese University of Hong Kong | End 2010 |
| 565 | Study to evaluate the environmental implications on traffic management measures | EDMS (HK) Limited | End 2009 |
| 566 | Review the eligibility of road sections for retrofitting barriers | Scott Wilson Limited NGIS (China) Limited | 2 nd Quarter 2009 2 nd Quarter 2009 |
| 914 | Review and development of Marine Water Quality Objectives | City University Professional Services Limited and Hyder Consulting Limited Joint Venture | Oct 2010 |
| 974 | Review of the Air Quality Objectives and Development of a Long Term Air Quality Strategy for Hong Kong – Feasibility Study | Ove Arup & Partners Hong Kong Ltd | July 2009 |
| 979 | Consultancy Study on Development of Standard Protocols for Chronic Whole Effluent Toxicity Test for Effluent Characterization and Impact Assessment | City University Professional Services Limited | Mar 2010 |
| 980 | Study of Volatile Organic Compounds and Photochemical Ozone Pollution in the Pearl River Delta Region – Feasibility Study | ENSR Environmental International, Inc. | March 2010 |
| 981 | Study of Major Industrial Air Pollution Sources in the Pearl River Delta Region – Feasibility Study | ENSR (Asia) Hong Kong Limited | September 2009 |
| 997 | Consultancy Study on Climate Change | ERM - Hong Kong, Ltd | End 2009 |

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

13 March 2009

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2009-10
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INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB090

Question Serial No.

0954

Head : 44 Environmental
Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (2) Air

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : In view of a lacklustre response to the scheme to encourage replacement of pre-Euro and Euro I diesel commercial vehicles following its initial launch, the Administration has extended the application deadline to late March 2010. Please provide an update on the scheme. Will the Administration consider revising the scheme to attract more vehicle owners to join it?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Kin-por

Reply :

As at 28 February 2009, the number of diesel commercial vehicles eligible for the one-off grant had been reduced to approximately 43 000 from around 59 000 before the commencement of the scheme, down 27%. Out of the about 16 000 retired vehicles, 7 834 pre-Euro vehicles and 3 088 Euro I vehicles had been replaced by new vehicles with the aid of the grant. The total payment of the one-off grant stood at about \$459 million since the launching of the scheme.

The existing scheme has provided considerable fiscal incentive for owners of pre-Euro and Euro I diesel commercial vehicles to replace them with new ones. To provide further impetus to phase out these old commercial vehicles, we consider it necessary to introduce disincentives against their continued use such as increasing their vehicle licence fees. However, when the proposal was discussed at the Panel on Environmental Affairs of the Council, members expressed concern on the likely adverse impact to the trades, particularly, during the financial tsunami. We will continue to examine how to accelerate the replacement of these vehicles.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

18 March 2009

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2009-10
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INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB091

Question Serial No.

0955

Head : 44 Environmental
Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (1) Waste

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : The Environmental Protection Department is examining possible options for implementing the mandatory producer responsibility scheme for used electrical and electronic equipment. Please state the initial idea of the scheme and when public consultation will be conducted.

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Kin-por

Reply :

The Product Eco-responsibility Ordinance was enacted by the Legislative Council in July 2008 to provide the legal basis for the introduction of producer responsibility schemes (PRS's) for various products, with the environmental levy scheme on plastic shopping bags being the first scheme under the Ordinance. As pledged in the 2008-09 Policy Address, we will examine the feasibility of introducing mandatory PRS for used electrical and electronic products, including the scope of the PRS and the possible forms that it may take. We aim to consult the public and the trades on the feasible options before the end of 2009.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

12 March 2009

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2009-10
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB092

Question Serial No.

0840

Head : 44 Environmental
Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (3) Noise

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : The Administration will continue to tackle noise impact of existing roads through the retrofitting programme during 2009-10. Please advise the progress and effectiveness of the programme in 2008-09.

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Wai-yip, Albert

Reply :

Under the programme of retrofitting noise barriers to existing roads, there were 14 road sections in 2008-09. The progress of these road sections is summarised in the table below. When completed, these road sections will reduce the traffic noise for a total of 15 700 dwellings.

Progress of noise barrier retrofitting works in 2008-09

| Ref. | Road Section | Progress in 2008-09 |
|------|--|--|
| 1 | Cheung Pei Shan Road | Construction work continued |
| 2 | Tseung Kwan O Road (near Hing Tin Estate) | |
| 3 | Tseung Kwan O Road (near Tsui Ping (South) Estate) | |
| 4 | Tsing Tsuen Bridge (Tsuen Wan and Tsing Yi) | |
| 5 | Yuen Shin Road (near Kwong Fuk Estate) | Construction work commenced |
| 6 | Kwun Tong Bypass | |
| 7 | Tuen Mun Road (Tsuen Wan) | |
| 8 | Tuen Mun Road (Yau Kom Tau) | |
| 9 | Tuen Mun Road (Anglers' Beach) | |
| 10 | Tuen Mun Road (Sham Tseng) | |
| 11 | Tuen Mun Road (Tsing Lung Tau) | Entered tender stage |
| 12 | Tuen Mun Road (Castle Peak Bay) | |
| 13 | Fanling Highway (MTR Fanling Station to Wo Hing Road) | Preparation work started for upgrading to Category A |
| 14 | Fanling Highway (Po Shek Wu Road to MTR Fanling Station) | |

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

13 March 2009

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INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB093

Question Serial No.

0841

Head : 44 Environmental
Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (1) Waste

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : The Administration will continue to implement the territory-wide Programme on Source Separation of Waste in 2009-10. Please advise if targets will be set to assess the effectiveness of the Programme on Source Separation of Waste? If yes, how effective was the Programme on Source Separation of Waste in 2008? If not, what were the reasons?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Wai-yip, Albert

Reply :

The Environmental Protection Department will continue to encourage community participation in waste recovery and recycling through the territory-wide Programme on Source Separation of Domestic Waste which was launched in January 2005. The overall target set in the Policy Framework for the Management of Municipal Solid Waste (2005-2014) is to have 80% of the population to participate in the Programme by the end of 2010. As at the end of 2008, there were 996 housing estates participating in the Programme, covering 1.23 million households and some 53% of the population. Through implementing source separation and other waste reduction measures, the domestic waste recovery rate has increased significantly from 14% in 2004 to 23% in 2007. This has exceeded the target of 20% by 2007 in the Policy Framework. The data for 2008 is being compiled but we expect there would be a further increase in the domestic waste recovery rate in 2008 as more housing estates have joined the Programme in 2008.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

11 March 2009

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2009-10
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INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB094

Question Serial No.

0212

Head : 44 Environmental
Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (1) Waste

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : In 2009-2010, what resources will the Administration allocate to implement the Territory-wide Programme on Source Separation of Waste? What are the progress and specific details of the Programme?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Hok-ming

Reply :

To encourage community participation in waste recovery and recycling, the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) launched a territory-wide Programme on Source Separation of Waste in January 2005. As at the end of 2008, there were 996 housing estates participating in the Programme, covering 1 230 000 households and some 53% of the population. The Programme was also expanded to cover commercial and industrial buildings in October 2007 with 442 buildings participating as at the end of 2008. We will continue to work with the building and property management sectors as well as relevant stakeholders to enlist more estates and buildings to join the Programme. Technical assistance by EPD's support teams as well as financial support from the Environment and Conservation Fund (ECF) if required will be provided to participating estates and buildings to enhance recovery of waste at source. We will organize publicity and promotional programmes to further promote the Programme to the general public. The estimated expenditure is about \$8 million in 2009-2010. In addition, the ECF has also allocated a total of \$14.2 million to support the Programme.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

17 March 2009

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2009-10
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB095

Question Serial No.

0503

Head : 44 Environmental
Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (1) Waste

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : After calculating the costs for collection, delivery and transfer of waste, as well as the operation of landfills, what is the average total cost of municipal solid waste treatment per tonne and what is the breakdown of the costs involved in each procedure in 2008-09?

Asked by : Hon. EU Yuet-mee, Audrey

Reply :

A breakdown of the average costs for transfer and disposal of waste at landfills in 2008-09 is given below :

| | 2008-09 |
|-----------------------|------------|
| | (\$/tonne) |
| Transfer | 208 |
| Disposal at landfills | 155 |
| Total cost per tonne* | 363 |

*In the estimation of the average cost per tonne for transfer and landfill disposal, we do not take into account the land premium cost.

The collection and delivery of household waste to refuse transfer stations or landfills is mainly provided by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD). Based on the last costing exercise conducted by the FEHD in 2007, the unit cost per tonne is about \$180.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

12 March 2009

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Reply Serial No.

ENB096

Question Serial No.

1343

Head : 44 Environmental
Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (2) Air

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : Regarding the scheme to encourage early replacement of pre-Euro and Euro I diesel commercial vehicles with new ones complying with the Euro IV statutory emission standards, please advise:

- (1) The number of vehicles replaced in 2008-09 and the expenditure so involved.
- (2) The expected number of vehicles to be replaced in 2009-10 and the expenditure so involved.

Asked by : Hon. EU Yuet-mee, Audrey

Reply :

The number of pre-Euro and Euro I diesel commercial vehicles replaced under the incentive scheme from 1 April 2008 to 28 February 2009 was 6 263 and the grant involved was about \$274 million.

In 2009-10, we have set aside \$914 million for the replacement of about 25 000 pre-Euro and Euro I diesel commercial vehicles. This has taken into account the possible last minute rush for applications before the deadline, which is 31 March 2010.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

17 March 2009

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INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB097

Question Serial No.

1518

Head : 44 Environmental
Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (1) Waste

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : Regarding the study on possible options for implementing the mandatory producer responsibility scheme in respect of electric and electronic equipment, please advise the specific details and the expenditure involved in 2008-09, as well as the estimated provision in 2009-10.

Asked by : Hon. EU Yuet-mee, Audrey

Reply :

The Product Eco-responsibility Ordinance was enacted by the Legislative Council in July 2008 to provide the legal basis for the introduction of Producer Responsibility Schemes (PRS's) for various products, with the environmental levy scheme on plastic shopping bags being the first scheme under the Ordinance. As pledged in the 2008-09 Policy Address, we will examine the feasibility of introducing mandatory PRS for used electrical and electronic products, including the scope of the PRS and the possible forms that it may take. We aim to consult the public and the trades on the options before the end of 2009. The expenditure relating to consultancy and related services in 2008-09 was \$0.3 million. The remaining work has been undertaken by Environmental Protection Department's staff as part of their normal duties and does not incur additional expenditure in 2008-09 and 2009-10.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

19 March 2009

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2009-10
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Reply Serial No.

ENB098

Question Serial No.

1519

Head : 44 Environmental
Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (4) Water

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : For the study on the co-use of the Harbour Area Treatment Scheme (HATS) Stage 2B site, what was the expenditure involved in 2008-2009? And what will be the estimated expenditure in 2009-2010?

Asked by : Hon. EU Yuet-mee, Audrey

Reply :

The expenditure for the study on the co-use of the HATS Stage 2B site in 2008-2009 was \$1.13 million. The estimated expenditure for the study in 2009-2010 is \$1.58 million.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

13 March 2009

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2009-10
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB099

Question Serial No.

1551

Head : 44 Environmental
Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (6) Nature Conservation

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : With reference to the pilot scheme for public-private partnership (PPP), what are the details of work and the expenditure involved in 2008-2009? What is the estimated expenditure in 2009-2010?

Asked by : Hon. EU Yuet-mee, Audrey

Reply :

In 2008, the Government completed the assessment of the applications received under the PPP and, upon seeking advice from the Advisory Council on the Environment (ACE), informed the applicants of the results and the recommendations of the ACE on these projects. As only the Sha Lo Tung project was supported for the time being, we are liaising closely with the project proponent and departments concerned so as to take forward the project.

In 2009-10, the financial provision for Programme (6) Nature Conservation under Head 44 – Environmental Protection Department (EPD) is to cover the relevant personal emoluments and associated general departmental expenses of the EPD for formulating policies and overseeing the implementation of government programmes on nature conservation. EPD's works involved for taking forward the Sha Lo Tung PPP Scheme would be absorbed within this provision.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

17 March 2009

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2009-10
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB100

Question Serial No.

1552

Head : 44 Environmental
Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (1) Waste

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : How many activities related to waste reduction and waste separation were approved by the Environment and Conservation Fund in 2008-2009? Please list the names of the successful applicants, names of the projects, project contents, amount of grants, as well as the assessment of the effectiveness of the completed projects.

Asked by : Hon. EU Yuet-mee, Audrey

Reply :

In 2008-09, the Environment and Conservation Fund approved 22 projects that are related to waste reduction and waste separation. A list of the approved projects with details on the name of applicant, the title of project, the amount of grant and the effectiveness of completed projects is given in the Annex.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

17 March 2009

A. Source Separation of Domestic Waste Programme 2008-09

To facilitate residents to separate waste at source by encouraging and assisting property management companies to provide waste separation facilities on each building floor, and broaden the types of recyclables to be recovered. In 2008-09, a total of 12 projects were approved –

| Name of Applicant | Estate | Approved Amount (\$) |
|---|---|---------------------------------|
| Sceneway Garden Estate Owners' Committee | Sceneway Garden | 6,784.80 |
| The Incorporated Owners of Greenwood Terrace | Greenwood Terrace | 11,434.50 |
| The Incorporated Owners of Lung Poon Court (Blocks A-F) | Lung Poon Court (Blocks A-F) | 22,755.00 |
| Urban Property Management Limited # | Kingsford Terrace | 84,018.00 |
| Student Residence, City University of Hong Kong | Student Residence, City University of Hong Kong | 44,200.00 |
| The Incorporated Owners of Choi Ha Estate | Choi Ha Estate | 81,565.00 |
| Urban Property Management Limited # | Kam Tai Court | 65,655.60 |
| Mental Health Association of Hong Kong – Lei Cheng Uk House | Mental Health Association of Hong Kong – Lei Cheng Uk House | 1,370.00 |
| Kai Shing Management Services Limited # | The Brentwood | 4,800.00 |
| Goodwell Property Management Limited # | Jubilee Garden | 69,460.00 |
| Discovery Bay Services Management Limited # | Beach Village, Discovery Bay | 12,583.00 |
| Sino Estates Management Limited # | Scenic Gardens | 44,000.00 |

448,625.90

The applicant submitted application on behalf of its residents' association.

Effectiveness of completed projects –

In 2008-09, 12 applications were approved for ECF funding support to install waste separation facilities on building floor and 10 of them have completed their installation of waste separation facilities or are commencing installation in their estates/buildings. Preliminary results of the 5 estates/buildings that have completed their installation of waste separation facilities are encouraging. Among the 5 estates with baseline recyclables data for comparison, there is an average of more than 67 % increase in the quantity of recyclables recovered.

B. Approved “Community Waste Recovery Projects” in 2008-09:

In 2008-09, a total of 3 projects were approved -

| Name of Applicant | Project Title | Purpose of Project | Approved Amount (\$) |
|---|---|---|-----------------------------|
| Central & Western Mid-Levels Owners Association | Source Separation of Waste Programme in C&W District & Mid-Levels | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To promote source separation of waste, and assist residents and residents’ organisations of buildings in Central & Western District to implement source separation. To provide collection services and temporary storage for plastic recyclables to the buildings. | 969,000 |
| Kadoorie Farm and Botanic Garden | Waste to Food-Community Trial Project of Kitchen Waste Recovery with Vermi composting | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To develop different models of vermin-composting bin and operational protocols for promoting wider application of vermin-composting technology in Hong Kong | 372,460 |

1,341,460

Notes:

One of the above projects commenced in the third quarter of 2008. The other project was approved in March 09 and has not yet commenced. Progress of the 2 projects would be monitored and effectiveness to be evaluated upon project completion.

C. Approved Public Education Programme for the “Policy Framework for the Management of Municipal Solid Waste (2005-2014)” in 2008-09

To tie in with the policy initiatives and timetable of the Policy Framework, applications are invited under the specific themes below : (* higher priority).

- a) Municipal Solid Waste Charging and Source Separation of Domestic Waste
- b) Producer Responsibility Schemes *
- c) Integrated Waste Management Facilities *
- d) Green Procurement
- e) EcoPark.

In 2008-09, a total of 4 projects were approved -

| Name of Applicant | Project Title | Purpose of Project | Approved Amount (\$) |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|--|-----------------------------|
| Greeners Action | Save Food Project | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To promote the fine tradition of thoughtful eating habits so as to reduce food waste at source through publicity programmes and webpages. • To encourage the restaurant trade to reduce food waste through offering “less food and less pay” options for those who want to eat less. | 448,990 |
| Greeners Action | Hong Kong Plastic Bag 3R Campaign | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To carry out a territory-wide plastic shopping bag recovery programme. • To carry out a roving exhibition on plastic bag reduction, reuse and recovery at housing estates. | 487,318 |
| Tai Po Environmental Association | Advanced Recycling Community (ARC) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To echo and assist in the drive to further increase recycling rate in the community, and to assist the transportation of recyclables, reducing energy consumption and greenhouse gas emission, a reverse vending machine will be used to compress plastic bottles automatically, significantly reducing the volume of plastic bottles. | 498,340 |

| Name of Applicant | Project Title | Purpose of Project | Approved Amount (\$) |
|-------------------|---|--|----------------------|
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental Education and seminars will be provided to participating schools and organisation, and awards presented to those with outstanding performance. • The involvement of large corporation in supporting and involving in the program, thereby in exploring future action in assisting the Producer Responsibility Schemes for Beverage Containers and Packaging Materials is noted. | |
| Greeners Action | Weekly No Plastic Bag Day at Pharmacies | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To carry out a territory-wide weekly “No Plastic Bag Day” Campaign at pharmacies. • To carry out a monthly rebate day. • To organise extensive publicity activities. | 335,490 |
| | | | <u>1,770,138</u> |

The above 4 projects have commenced since the last quarter of 2008. Their progress would be monitored and effectiveness to be evaluated upon project completion.

D. Environmental Education & Community Action Projects

In 2008-09, 4 projects related to waste reduction and source separation were approved.

| Name of Applicant | Project Title | Purpose of Project | Approved Amount (\$) |
|---|---|---|-----------------------------|
| The Mental Health Association of H.K. [J.C. Building Halfway House 2] | Environmental Protection Starts from the Daily Living | To educate ex-mentally ill persons and their relatives with practical environmental knowledge in daily life through setting up waste separation bins, recycling of used clothes and activities such as “No Plastic Bag Day”, etc. | 17,804.00 |
| Christian Alliance S W Chan Memorial College | Alleviating Global Warming | To encourage students to alleviate global warming through a series of activities, including waste separation competition, and promote the message of environmental conservation | 6,812.00 |
| Yan Chai Hospital Mrs. Kwok Yuk Cheung Care and Attention Home | Green Elderly Home Environment Protection Scheme | To incorporate environmental protection concepts into the elderly home living and increase the awareness of staff and relatives of the elderly on environmental protection through an exhibition about 4R, a toilet paper rolls and batteries collecting competition, etc | 10,532.40 |
| Friends of the Earth (HK) Charity Limited | Domestic waste recycling program - promoting glass and foam recycling | To encourage the recycling of glass and polyfoam packaging through monthly activities of goods exchange and domestic recycling competition in 3 estates. | 11,760.00 |

46,908.40

The first 2 projects have commenced since the last quarter of 2008. The third project has just commenced in March 2009. The last project will commence in April 2009. Their progress is being monitored and their effectiveness will be evaluated upon project completion.

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2009-10
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB101

Question Serial No.

1553

Head : 44 Environmental Protection Subhead (No. & title):
Department

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : Regarding the studies (including in-house studies or those entrusted to consultants) for the purposes of formulating and assessing policies, please provide the relevant information in the following format:

(a) For the projects that have reserved funds for conducting consultancy studies in 2008-09, please provide information in the following format:

| Name of Consultant (if any) | Content | Revised Estimate (\$) | Progress of Studies (under planning / in progress / completed) | The follow-ups taken by the Administration on the study reports and their progress (if any) | If completed, have they been released to the public? If yes, through which channels? If no, what are the reasons? |
|-----------------------------|---------|-----------------------|--|---|---|
| | | | | | |

(b) Is there any project that will reserve funds for conducting consultancy studies in 2009-10? If yes, please provide information in the following format:

| Name of Consultant (if any) | Content | Expenditure (\$) | Progress of Studies (under planning / in progress / completed) | Will the studies be released to the public if they are expected to be completed in 2009-10? If yes, through which channels? If no, what are the reasons? |
|-----------------------------|---------|------------------|--|--|
| | | | | |

Asked by : Hon. Eu Yuet-mee, Audrey

Reply :

Please refer to the attachment.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ANISSA WONG

Post Title Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date 18 March 2009

(a) Projects that have reserved funds for consultancy studies in 2008-09:

| Name of Consultant (if any) | Content | Revised Estimate (\$) | Progress of Studies (under planning / in progress / completed) | The follow-ups taken by the Administration on the study reports and their progress (if any) | If completed, have they been released to the public? If yes, through which channels? If no, what are the reasons? |
|--|---|------------------------------|---|--|---|
| Hong Kong Productivity Council | To develop and update environmental specifications for products commonly procured by the Administration | 590,000 | In progress | Upon completion of the study, the Administration will expand the number of green procurement items | The findings will be shared within the Administration. We will also upload the green specifications of the products on EPD's webpage. |
| Association for Geoconservation, Hong Kong | To assess the feasibility of establishing a geopark in Hong Kong | 170,000 | Completed | The Administration is now taking forward the proposal to set up a Geopark in Hong Kong. | We have made reference to the study findings in developing our proposal to set up a Geopark in Hong Kong. Our proposal has been made public and reported to the Legislative Council |
| ERM-Hong Kong, Limited | Study of Climate Change in Hong Kong | 2,740,000 | In Progress | Not Applicable (not yet completed) | When completed, the study report will be uploaded on the EPD website. |
| Ove Arup & Partners Hong Kong Limited | Review of the Air Quality Objectives and Development of a Long Term Air Quality Strategy for Hong Kong | 2,030,000 | In Progress (continued from 2007-08) | Not Applicable (not yet completed) | When completed, the study report will be uploaded on the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) website. |

| Name of Consultant (if any) | Content | Revised Estimate (\$) | Progress of Studies (under planning / in progress / completed) | The follow-ups taken by the Administration on the study reports and their progress (if any) | If completed, have they been released to the public? If yes, through which channels? If no, what are the reasons? |
|--|---|-----------------------|--|---|---|
| Cinotech Consultants Limited | Review on Indoor Air Quality Management Programme | 45,000 | In Progress (continued from 2007-08) | Not Applicable (not yet completed) | When completed, the study report will be uploaded on the EPD website. |
| PolyU Technology & Consultancy Co. Limited | Study on Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC) - Control of Solvents & Non-Architectural Coatings /Adhesives /Sealants | 90,000 | In Progress (continued from 2007-08) | Not Applicable (not yet completed) | When completed, the study report will be uploaded on the EPD website. |
| PolyU Technology & Consultancy Co. Limited | Review on the Effectiveness of VOC Control Programme in Hong Kong | 573,300 | In Progress (continued from 2007-08) | Not Applicable (not yet completed) | When completed, the study report will be uploaded on the EPD website. |
| The Chinese University of Hong Kong | Study on the Air Pollution Index Reporting System | 1,065,000 | In Progress | Not Applicable (not yet completed) | When completed, the study report will be uploaded on the EPD website. |
| ENSR Environmental International, Inc. | Study on VOC and Photochemical Ozone Pollution in the Pearl River Delta Region | 1,500,000 | In Progress (continued from 2007-08) | Not Applicable (not yet completed) | When completed, the study report will be uploaded on the EPD website. |

| Name of Consultant (if any) | Content | Revised Estimate (\$) | Progress of Studies (under planning / in progress / completed) | The follow-ups taken by the Administration on the study reports and their progress (if any) | If completed, have they been released to the public? If yes, through which channels? If no, what are the reasons? |
|---|---|------------------------------|---|--|--|
| ENSR (Asia) Hong Kong Limited | Study of Major Industrial Air Pollution Sources in the Pearl River Delta Region | 1,500,000 | In Progress (continued from 2007-08) | Not Applicable (not yet completed) | When completed, the study report will be uploaded on the EPD website. |
| Hong Kong University of Science & Technology | Study on marine vessels emission inventory in Hong Kong | 64,000 | In Progress | Not Applicable (not yet completed) | When completed, the key findings of the study will be uploaded on the EPD website. |
| Hong Kong Productivity Council | Study ways to control the emissions of off-road mobile sources operating within the airport and container terminals | 414,000 | In Progress | Not Applicable (not yet completed) | When completed, the key findings of the study will be uploaded on the EPD website. |

| Name of Consultant (if any) | Content | Revised Estimate (\$) | Progress of Studies (under planning / in progress / completed) | The follow-ups taken by the Administration on the study reports and their progress (if any) | If completed, have they been released to the public? If yes, through which channels? If no, what are the reasons? |
|-------------------------------------|---|------------------------------|---|---|--|
| The Chinese University of Hong Kong | Study to evaluate the adverse impact of environmental noise on public health in Hong Kong | 800,000 | In progress | Not Applicable (not yet completed) | When completed, the study report will be uploaded on the EPD website. |
| EDMS (HK) Limited | Study to evaluate the environmental implications on traffic management measures | 200,000 | In progress | Not Applicable (not yet completed) | When completed, the study report will be uploaded on the EPD website. |
| ENSR Asia (HK) Limited | Review the engineering and technical eligibility of road sections for retrofitting barriers (Batch 1) | 134,000 | Completed | We have made reference to findings of the report in formulating the noise barrier retrofitting programme. | Uploaded on the EPD website. |
| Scott Wilson Limited | Review the engineering and technical eligibility of road sections for retrofitting barriers (Batch 2) | 50,000 | In progress | Not Applicable (not yet completed) | When completed, the study report will be uploaded on the EPD website. |

| Name of Consultant (if any) | Content | Revised Estimate (\$) | Progress of Studies (under planning / in progress / completed) | The follow-ups taken by the Administration on the study reports and their progress (if any) | If completed, have they been released to the public? If yes, through which channels? If no, what are the reasons? |
|------------------------------------|--|-----------------------|--|--|--|
| NGIS (China) Limited | Review the engineering and technical eligibility of road sections for retrofitting barriers (Batch 3) | 160,000 | In progress | Not Applicable (not yet completed) | When completed, the study report will be uploaded on the EPD website. |
| Environmental Resources Management | Baseline study to collect information on waste generation pattern and waste management practices among different types of commercial and industrial establishments for development of municipal solid waste charging options | 372,000 | In progress | Not applicable (not yet completed) | Not applicable (not yet completed) |
| Environmental Resources Management | To study possible producer responsibility scheme (PRS) options for waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE) in Hong Kong | 58,000 | Completed | We are developing proposal on a mandatory PRS for WEEE with reference to the findings of the study | We shall consult the community and trade on the mandatory PRS on WEEE before end 2009 and the key findings of the study shall be released in that context. |

| Name of Consultant (if any) | Content | Revised Estimate (\$) | Progress of Studies (under planning / in progress / completed) | The follow-ups taken by the Administration on the study reports and their progress (if any) | If completed, have they been released to the public? If yes, through which channels? If no, what are the reasons? |
|---|---|------------------------------|---|---|--|
| Ove Arup & Partners Hong Kong Ltd | To explore ways to reduce excessive packaging of consumer products in Hong Kong | 324,000 | In progress | Not applicable (not yet completed) | Not applicable (not yet completed) |
| Environmental Resources Management | To explore possible ways to recycle glass containers in Hong Kong | 342,750 | In progress | Not applicable (not yet completed) | Not applicable (not yet completed) |
| The South China Institute of Environmental Sciences and WL/Delft Hydraulics | Development of a Pearl River Estuary Model for Water Quality Management | 582,000 | Completed | We will make use of the computer model to examine the pollution load carrying capacity of the Pearl River Estuary in collaboration with the Guangdong Environmental Protection Bureau | The report has been uploaded on the EPD website. |

| Name of Consultant (if any) | Content | Revised Estimate (\$) | Progress of Studies (under planning / in progress / completed) | The follow-ups taken by the Administration on the study reports and their progress (if any) | If completed, have they been released to the public? If yes, through which channels? If no, what are the reasons? |
|---|---|------------------------------|---|--|--|
| CityU Professional Services Limited | Consultancy Study on Development of Standard Protocols for Chronic Whole Effluent Toxicity Test for Effluent Characterisation and Impact Assessment | 1,560,000 | In progress | Not Applicable (not yet completed) | When completed, the study report will be uploaded on the EPD website. |
| CityU Professional Services Limited, and Hyder Consulting Limited Joint Venture | Review and Development of Marine Water Quality Objectives | 1,060,000 | In progress | Not Applicable (not yet completed) | When completed, the key findings of the study will be uploaded on the EPD website. |

(b) Projects that will reserve funds for conducting consultancy studies in 2009-10:

| Name of Consultant (if any) | Content | Expenditure (\$) | Progress of Studies (under planning / in progress / completed) | Will the studies be released to the public if they are expected to be completed in 2009-10? If yes, through which channels? If no, what are the reasons? |
|--|---|-------------------------|---|---|
| ERM-Hong Kong, Limited | Study of Climate Change in Hong Kong | 2,000,000 | In Progress (continued from 2008-09) | When completed, the study report will be uploaded on the EPD website. |
| Ove Arup & Partners Hong Kong Limited | Review of the Air Quality Objectives and Development of a Long Term Air Quality Strategy for Hong Kong | 2,000,000 | In Progress (continued from 2008-09) | When completed, the study report will be uploaded on the EPD website. |
| PolyU Technology & Consultancy Co. Limited | Study on Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC) - Control of Solvents & Non-Architectural Coatings /Adhesives /Sealants | 150,000 | In Progress (continued from 2008-09) | When completed, the study report will be uploaded on the EPD website. |
| PolyU Technology & Consultancy Co. Limited | Review on the Effectiveness of VOC Control Programme in Hong Kong | 191,100 | In Progress (continued from 2008-09) | When completed, the study report will be uploaded on the EPD website. |
| The Chinese University of Hong Kong | Study on the Air Pollution Index Reporting System | 180,000 | In Progress (continued from 2008-09) | When completed, the study report will be uploaded on the EPD website. |
| ENSR Environmental International, Inc. | Study on VOC and Photochemical Ozone Pollution in the Pearl River Delta Region | 2,000,000 | In Progress (continued from 2008-09) | When completed, the study report will be uploaded on the EPD website. |
| ENSR (Asia) Hong Kong Limited | Study of Major Industrial Air Pollution Sources in the Pearl River Delta Region | 2,000,000 | In Progress (continued from 2008-09) | When completed, the study report will be uploaded on the EPD website. |

| Name of Consultant (if any) | Content | Expenditure (\$) | Progress of Studies (under planning / in progress / completed) | Will the studies be released to the public if they are expected to be completed in 2009-10? If yes, through which channels? If no, what are the reasons? |
|--|---|------------------|--|--|
| Hong Kong University of Science & Technology | Study on marine vessels emission inventory in Hong Kong | 576,000 | In Progress (continued from 2008-09) | When completed, the key findings of the study will be uploaded on the EPD website. |
| Hong Kong Productivity Council | Study ways to control the emissions of off-road mobile sources operating within the airport and container terminals | 86,000 | In Progress (continued from 2008-09) | When completed, the key findings of the study will be uploaded on the EPD website. |
| The Chinese University of Hong Kong | Study to evaluate the adverse impact of environmental noise on public health in Hong Kong | 900,000 | In progress (continued from 2008-09) | When completed, the study report will be uploaded on the EPD website. |
| EDMS (HK) Limited | Study to evaluate the environmental implications on traffic management measures | 200,000 | In progress (continued from 2008-09) | When completed, the study report will be uploaded on the EPD website. |
| Scott Wilson Limited | Review the engineering and technical eligibility of road sections for retrofitting barriers (Batch 2) | 111,000 | In progress (continued from 2008-09) | When completed, the study report will be uploaded on the EPD website. |
| NGIS (China) Limited | Review the engineering and technical eligibility of road sections for retrofitting barriers (Batch 3) | 269,000 | In progress (continued from 2008-09) | When completed, the study report will be uploaded on the EPD website. |

| Name of Consultant (if any) | Content | Expenditure (\$) | Progress of Studies (under planning / in progress / completed) | Will the studies be released to the public if they are expected to be completed in 2009-10? If yes, through which channels? If no, what are the reasons? |
|---|--|------------------|--|--|
| Environmental Resources Management | Baseline study to collect information on waste generation pattern and waste management practices among different types of commercial and industrial establishments for development of municipal solid waste charging options | 878,000 | In progress (continued from 2008-09) | When completed, the key findings of the study will be uploaded on the EPD website. |
| Ove Arup & Partners Hong Kong Ltd | To explore ways to reduce excessive packaging of consumer products in Hong Kong | 756,000 | In progress (continued from 2008-09) | When completed, the key findings of the study will be uploaded on the EPD website. |
| Environmental Resources Management | To explore possible ways to recycle glass containers in Hong Kong | 628,375 | In progress (continued from 2008-09) | When completed, the key findings of the study will be uploaded on the EPD website. |
| CityU Professional Services Limited | Consultancy Study on Development of Standard Protocols for Chronic Whole Effluent Toxicity Test for Effluent Characterisation and Impact Assessment | 1,000,000 | In progress (continued from 2008-09) | When completed, the study report will be uploaded on the EPD website. |
| CityU Professional Services Limited, and Hyder Consulting Limited Joint Venture | Review and Development of Marine Water Quality Objectives | 2,000,000 | In progress (continued from 2008-09) | When completed, the key findings of the study will be uploaded on the EPD website. |

| Name of Consultant (if any) | Content | Expenditure (\$) | Progress of Studies (under planning / in progress / completed) | Will the studies be released to the public if they are expected to be completed in 2009-10? If yes, through which channels? If no, what are the reasons? |
|------------------------------------|--|-------------------------|---|---|
| Not available | Joint Study on Shenzhen River Contaminated Sediment Remediation Strategy | 2,500,000 | Under planning | We aim to commence the study in April 2009. When completed, the key findings of the study will be uploaded on the EPD website. |

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2009-10
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB102

Question Serial No.

1558

Head : 44 Environmental
Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (1) Waste

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : Regarding the Fluorescent Lamp Recycling Programme, how many fluorescent lamps were recovered since the implementation of the Programme? How much of toxic waste, e.g. mercury, etc. being treated?

Asked by : Hon. EU Yuet-mee, Audrey

Reply :

Launched in March 2008, the Fluorescent Lamp Recycling Programme is a trade-funded voluntary producer responsibility scheme to promote the recovery and recycling of used fluorescent lamps. Up to end December 2008, 164 000 pieces of fluorescent lamps and tubes have been recovered under the Programme and some 800 grams of mercury have been separated and treated.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

13 March 2009

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2009-10
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB103

Question Serial No.

2292

Head : 44 Environmental Protection Department Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (1) Waste

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : According to the data, there were 113 and 115 prosecution cases of waste import and export offences in 2007 and 2008 respectively. It is expected that there will be 110 cases of such in 2009. Please advise:

- (a) What were the general subject matters of these prosecution cases?
- (b) Is it because these cases involve the same offenders, so the number of prosecution cases varies little every year?
- (c) Were these cases involved waste? What happened to the waste concerned eventually?

Asked by : Hon. FANG Kang, Vincent

Reply :

- (a) Regarding the 228 prosecution cases in 2007 and 2008, their details are listed as follows:

| | Nature of Waste | 2007 | 2008 |
|---------------------|---|-------------|-------------|
| Import cases | Electronic wastes namely cathode ray tubes and used batteries | 100 | 94 |
| | Other wastes including lubricating oil and silica | 1 | 3 |
| Export cases | Electronic wastes namely cathode ray tubes and used batteries | 11 | 15 |
| | Other wastes including lubricating oil and silica | 1 | 3 |

- (b) To curb illegal import and export of waste, the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) collaborated with other authorities in tightening up control in recent years. The enhanced enforcement efforts resulted in relatively high prosecution figures in the past two years. As to the similar numbers of prosecution completed in the year 2007 and 2008, it is only a coincidence. Among the 178 offenders prosecuted in the year 2007 and 2008, 19 were repeated offenders. With stringent enforcement in place, the EPD would expect prosecution figures at similar level in the year 2009.
- (c) All the 228 prosecutions in 2007 and 2008 were related to illegal import or export of controlled waste under the Waste Disposal Ordinance. For import cases, the importers were required to return the waste to the exporting countries. For export cases, the exporters were required to arrange proper disposal of the waste.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

13 March 2009

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2009-10
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB104

Question Serial No.

2293

Head : 44 Environmental Protection Subhead (No. & title):
Department

Programme : (1) Waste

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : The numbers of waste import/export permits issued in 2007 and 2008 are 5 and 3 respectively. It is expected that 3 waste import/export permits will be issued in 2009. Please advise:

- (a) What kinds of waste are covered by these import/export permits? Are they used for import or export? Is there any quota on the number of permits issued in a year? Are there any applications waiting for or pending approval at present?
- (b) How many import/export permits have been issued as of now?
- (c) What are the volumes of waste imported and exported under such permits every year? What are the places of origin or export? What is the estimated value involved?

Asked by : Hon. FANG Kang, Vincent

Reply :

- (a) In the year 2007 and 2008, all the eight permits were issued for export of waste to overseas countries for recycling. The waste types involved included rechargeable batteries, precious metal ash and used office equipment. As for the number of permits to be issued in a year, it is externally driven and no quota is set. Permit holders are required to renew their permits if they wish to continue their import or export of waste upon expiry of the existing ones and there are both new and renewal applications being processed throughout the year. At present, 2 export permit applications are being processed, and they are all related to waste recycling.
- (b) A waste import or export permit is valid for one year. So far 47 permits have been issued since the introduction of control in 1996. As of now, 5 permits for export of waste for recycling are still effective.
- (c) The details of waste exported in the year 2007 and 2008 for recycling are shown as follows:

| Year | Quantity (Tonnes) | Destination | Estimated value \$ million |
|-------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 2007 | 1 082 | Italy; Japan; Thailand | 38 |
| 2008 | 967 | Italy; Thailand; Korea; Singapore | 30 |

Signature _____

Name in block letters ANISSA WONG

Post Title Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date 13 March 2009

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2009-10
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB105

Question Serial No.

2294

Head : 44 Environmental
Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (1) Waste

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

- Question : (a) Data shows that at present 1 230 000 households have participated in the Programme on Source Separation of Domestic Waste. What is the annual proportion of quantity of useful recyclable waste recovered through this Programme against the total volume of waste? What does such waste mainly consist of and how is the waste handled eventually?
- (b) What is the total volume of useful waste recovered by the 3-coloured recycling bins annually and how is the waste disposed of?

Asked by : Hon. FANG Kang, Vincent

Reply :

- (a) To encourage community participation in waste recovery and recycling, the Environmental Protection Department launched a territory-wide Programme on Source Separation of Domestic Waste in January 2005. As at the end of 2008, there were 996 housing estates participating in the Programme, covering 1 230 000 households and some 53% of the population. Through implementing source separation and other waste reduction measures, the domestic waste recovery rate has increased significantly from 14% in 2004 to 16%, 20% and 23% in 2005, 2006 and 2007 respectively. The target of 20% by 2007 set in the Policy Framework for the Management of Municipal Solid Waste (2005-2014) has been exceeded. The materials recovered under the Programme include paper, metals, plastics, old clothing, computers, electrical and electronic appliances, rechargeable batteries, etc. The recovered recyclables are predominantly exported to Mainland China and other countries for recycling.
- (b) The quantities of recyclables collected from the 3-coloured waste separation bins at public places and schools are as follows:

| Year | Paper (tonnes) | Metals (tonnes) | Plastics (tonnes) | Total (tonnes) |
|-------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 2004 | 550 | 20 | 160 | 730 |
| 2005 | 323 | 23 | 142 | 488 |
| 2006 | 518 | 25 | 94 | 637 |
| 2007 | 504 | 10 | 109 | 623 |
| 2008 | 511 | 7 | 99 | 617 |

Currently, the Government has contracted out the collection service of recyclables from the waste separation bins at public places and schools. According to the contractual requirements, the contractor is required to deliver all recyclables collected for recycling.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

13 March 2009

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2009-10
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB106

Question Serial No.

2295

Head : 44 Environmental
Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (1) Waste

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : Regarding the environmental impact assessment studies for developing the large scale waste treatment facilities as mentioned under "Matters requiring special attention in 2009-2010", what is the expenditure required and which organization will be commissioned to carry out the environmental impact assessment? Is there already a timetable for the large scale waste treatment facilities at the present stage?

Asked by : Hon. FANG Kang, Vincent

Reply :

We have identified Tsang Tsui in Tuen Mun and Shek Kwu Chau to the south of Lantau Island as two potential sites for the development of the Integrated Waste Management Facilities (IWmf). The final choice of site has not been made pending completion of the detailed engineering and environmental impact assessment studies for both sites. An independent consultant Melcalf & Eddy Ltd has been engaged for the studies. The studies have commenced in November 2008 and are scheduled for completion in mid 2010. The estimated costs of the studies are \$20.5 million. Upon a final decision on the choice of the site, we expect to submit the IWmf for funding approval in 2011, with a view to commissioning the first phase of the IWmf in 2015.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

18 March 2009

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2009-10
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Reply Serial No.

ENB107

Question Serial No.

1329

Head : 44 Environmental
Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (2) Air

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : The Environmental Protection Department launched a new incentive scheme in 2008 to encourage the use of environmental-friendly vehicles. What are the details of the scheme and the expenditure and manpower involved?

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply :

The Environmental Protection Department launched an incentive scheme in April 2008 to encourage the use of environment-friendly commercial vehicles.

Under the scheme, First Registration Tax (FRT) concessions are offered to buyers of new commercial vehicles that comply with Euro V emission standards. The extent of the concession varies according to vehicle classes. In the case of taxis, light buses, non-franchised buses and special purpose vehicles, their FRTs are waived entirely. As for goods vehicles (except van-type goods vehicles weighing up to 1.9 tonnes), their FRTs are waived by half. Van-type goods vehicles weighing up to 1.9 tonnes have their FRT reduced by 30%.

Up to end February 2009, the scheme offered FRT concessions to 222 environment-friendly commercial vehicles with the FRT forgone at about \$5 million. Existing staff resources are deployed to implement the scheme.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

11 March 2009

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2009-10
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
 INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB108

Question Serial No.

1330

Head : 44 Environmental
 Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (2) Air

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : There will be a creation of 13 posts in 2009-2010 under this Programme. Please advise this Committee the distribution of these posts and the expenditure involved.

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply :

The distribution, duties and annual salaries of the 13 posts to be created in 2009 -10 are as follows:

| <u>Duty Description</u> | <u>New Posts</u> | <u>Annual Salaries</u> |
|---|--|------------------------|
| To strengthen the collaboration and liaison with the Guangdong Government with a view to improving the regional environment and promoting cleaner production. | 1 Environmental Protection Officer 1 Senior Environmental Protection Inspector | \$ 0.90 million |
| To support initiatives related to combating climate change and promoting carbon reduction in Hong Kong. | 1 Environmental Protection Officer 1 Environmental Protection Inspector | \$ 0.75 million |
| To enhance the control on air pollution from vehicles and other mobile sources | 1 Senior Environmental Protection Officer 1 Environmental Protection Officer 1 Senior Environmental Protection Inspector 1 Environmental Protection Inspector | \$ 2.20 million |
| To enhance the monitoring of fine suspended particulates and support assessment of air quality in the Pearl River Delta region. | 1 Senior Environmental Protection Inspector 2 Environmental Protection Inspectors | \$ 0.90 million |
| To develop an air quality management plan for achieving the new air quality objectives. | 1 Environmental Protection Officer 1 Senior Environmental Protection Inspector | \$ 0.90 million |
| Total | | \$ 5.65 million |

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
 Director of Environmental Protection

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16 March 2009

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INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB109

Question Serial No.

1331

Head : 44 Environmental
Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (2) Air

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : The Administration will work with the Guangdong authorities to formulate a strategy to transform the Pearl River Delta (PRD) Region into a green and quality living area. Please inform this Committee of the latest development of the work. And what are the resources and manpower involved?

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply :

On the basis of the existing cooperation platform, Guangdong and Hong Kong have agreed last year to further deepen and enhance co-operation on the environmental front. Both sides would jointly draw up strategies to transform the PRD Region into a green and quality living area. The new co-operation strategies will be underpinned by the principle of promoting environmental protection and sustainable development, and seeks to develop a more comprehensive and forward looking approach in taking forward regional environmental cooperation. The aim is to develop the PRD Region into a low-carbon, high-technology and low-pollution cluster of cities with quality living. In addition to continuing to take forward current initiatives under the Hong Kong-Guangdong Joint Working Group on Sustainable Development and Environmental Protection, we will seek to extend cooperation to other areas including renewable energy; infrastructure development and supply of cleaner energy; promoting the development of circular economy; facilitating wider use of electric vehicles; enhancing cleaner production; and mapping out post-2010 air emission reduction arrangement. Both sides will hold in depth discussion to explore co-operation details. Whether and how much additional manpower and resources would be required will be further assessed.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

17 March 2009

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Reply Serial No.

ENB110

Question Serial No.

1332

Head : 44 Environmental
Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (3) Noise

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : The Administration will continue to tackle noise impact of existing roads through the retrofitting programme. Please advise the latest progress of the programme and the locations covered.

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply :

On retrofitting existing roads with noise barriers, works for two road sections have been completed, ten road sections are in progress, two road sections are at tender stage and another two road sections are being prepared for upgrading to Category A under the Public Works Programme. Locations of these road sections are listed in the table below:

Locations of noise barrier retrofitting works

| Ref. | Road Section | Status |
|------|--|---|
| 1 | Fanling Highway (near Choi Yuen Estate) | Completed |
| 2 | Fanling Highway (near Fanling Centre) | |
| 3 | Cheung Pei Shan Road | Works in progress |
| 4 | Tseung Kwan O Road (near Hing Tin Estate) | |
| 5 | Tseung Kwan O Road (near Tsui Ping (South) Estate) | |
| 6 | Tsing Tsuen Bridge (Tsuen Wan and Tsing Yi) | |
| 7 | Yuen Shin Road (near Kwong Fuk Estate) | |
| 8 | Kwun Tong Bypass | |
| 9 | Tuen Mun Road (Tsuen Wan) | |
| 10 | Tuen Mun Road (Yau Kom Tau) | |
| 11 | Tuen Mun Road (Anglers' Beach) | |
| 12 | Tuen Mun Road (Sham Tseng) | |
| 13 | Tuen Mun Road (Tsing Lung Tau) | Tender stage |
| 14 | Tuen Mun Road (Castle Peak Bay) | |
| 15 | Fanling Highway (MTR Fanling Station to Wo Hing Road) | Preparation for upgrading to Category A |
| 16 | Fanling Highway (Po Shek Wu Road to MTR Fanling Station) | |

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Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

13 March 2009

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2009-10
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Reply Serial No.

ENB111

Question Serial No.

1333

Head : 44 Environmental
Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (4) Water

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : The Administration will continue to implement in phases the Harbour Area Treatment Scheme (HATS) Stage 2 with a view to completing the Stage 2A work in 2014. Please advise the latest progress of HATS Stage 2 and if it is on schedule? Would the Administration expect the cost to be reduced due to the recent economic downturn? If yes, what will be the range of reduction?

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply :

The implementation of HATS Stage 2A is on schedule with a target completion date in 2014. To facilitate early re-opening of Tsuen Wan beaches, parts of the disinfection facilities have been advanced with the construction commenced in April 2008 for completion in late 2009. The funding application for the first main construction package of Stage 2A, consisting of the tunnel works for the Sewage Conveyance System and parts of the upgrading works at Stonecutters Island Sewage Treatment Works, is planned to be submitted to the Public Works Sub-Committee (PWSC) for approval in mid 2009. The tendering process for two major deep tunnel contracts has commenced in parallel and subject to the approval of the Finance Committee, construction works are scheduled to start in mid 2009. Tendering exercises for other works under this construction package will also commence in stages in the coming months.

The cost estimate for this first main construction package is about \$7 billion. The market situation will be closely monitored and the cost estimate will be updated taking into account the latest market prices as appropriate. With a view to reflecting the latest market trend in cost, the funding application will be submitted to PWSC after the tender prices for the two major deep tunnel contracts are known.

EPD will review the population, sewage flow build-up and water quality in 2010-11. The timing of implementation of the last stage, i.e. HATS Stage 2B, will be dependent on the findings of this review.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

13 March 2009

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2009-10
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INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB112

Question Serial No.

1334

Head : 44 Environmental
Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (4) Water

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : The Administration will continue to co-operate with the Guangdong authorities on cross-boundary water quality management issues. Please give the details of co-operation and what are the resources and manpower involved?

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply :

The Environmental Protection Department (EPD) has one on-going and two planned projects to address cross-boundary water quality management issues in collaboration with the Guangdong Environmental Protection Bureau (GEPB) and the Shenzhen Environmental Protection Bureau (SEPB). These studies are funded and managed jointly by EPD and GEPB. Their details and estimated expenditure for EPD are set out below:

| Project | Details | Estimated Expenditure |
|--|---|---------------------------------|
| First Review of the Mirs Bay Water Quality Regional Control Strategy | The study is being carried out jointly by the EPD and the SEPB. The objective of the study is to examine the additional measures necessary for protecting the Mirs Bay water environment and meeting the sustainable development objectives. The study commenced in December 2008 and is scheduled for completion in March 2011. | HK\$3,500,000 |
| Joint Study on Shenzhen River Contaminated Sediment Remediation Strategy | The study will be carried out jointly by the EPD and the SEPB. The objective of the study is to formulate remediation measures to address the contaminated sediment problem of the Shenzhen River. We aim to commence the study in April 2009. | HK\$12,500,000 |
| Advance Study for Pearl River Estuary Regional Water Quality Joint Management Planning | The study will be carried out jointly by the EPD and the GEPB. The objective is to examine the pollution load carrying capacity of the Pearl River Estuary under different water quality objectives, and the study findings will provide a scientific basis for the establishment of joint water quality protection targets and development of regional water quality management plans for the Pearl River Estuary. We aim to commence the study in late 2009/early 2010. | Cost estimate not yet available |

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

18 March 2009

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INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB113

Question Serial No.

1335

Head : 44 Environmental
Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (6) Nature Conservation

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : With regard to the exploration of the proposal to establish a geopark in Hong Kong, please inform this Committee of the management practices of the park and the expenditures that would be incurred.

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply :

The proposed geopark will be set up under the legal framework of the Country Parks Ordinance and Marine Parks Ordinance.

The Administration will develop the management practices having regard to the provisions of the Country Parks Ordinance and Marine Parks Ordinance, as well as the management guidelines laid down by the Ministry of Land and Resources of the Central People's Government for national geopark. Upon finalizing the management plan, the Administration will formulate the manpower and resources needed.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

18 March 2009

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2009-10
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INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB114

Question Serial No.

1816

Head : 44 Environmental
Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (1) Waste

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : The feasibility study for the extension of the South East New Territories Landfill was substantially completed in 2008. Please advise the expenditure and manpower involved in the study. Apart from the study on the landfill extension, will the Administration consider launching studies on other means to manage and reduce waste?

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply :

The feasibility study for the extension of the South East New Territories (SENT) Landfill required a multi-discipline team of some 50 experts and professionals from the consultants to provide inputs on various complex environmental impact assessment and engineering feasibility issues. The expenditure of the study was about \$11 million. The supervision of the study was carried out by the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) using existing resources.

Apart from the feasibility study for the extension of the SENT Landfill, EPD has also commissioned consultants to conduct feasibility studies on the development of other waste management facilities set out in the Policy Framework for the Management of Municipal Solid Waste (2005-2014) issued in December 2005. These include the extensions for the other two existing landfills (namely the North East New Territories Landfill and the West New Territories Landfill) and the Integrated Waste Management Facilities. As regards waste reduction, the EPD will continue to enhance further efforts to implement the various waste management measures set out in the Policy Framework such as extending the Source Separation Programme to commercial and industrial buildings, continuing to pursue other mandatory and voluntary producer responsibility schemes as appropriate, as well as studying options for waste charging.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

17 March 2009

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INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB115

Question Serial No.

1817

Head : 44 Environmental
Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (1) Waste

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : In regard to the indicators in respect of “marine dumping permits issued” and “chemical waste collector licences issued”, there is a drastic increase in the estimated number in 2009 in comparison with the actual number in 2008. The numbers have increased from 76 to 90 and from 21 to 31 respectively. Please advise the reasons for the increases.

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply :

Chemical waste collection licences are issued with a 5-year validity period. There were total 21 licences issued in 2008 including 6 new and 15 renewed licences. Based upon past figures and the number of existing licences that will expire in the following year, the target figures for 2009 will increase to 31 including 5 new and 26 renewed licences.

The number of marine dumping permits to be issued is largely related to Hong Kong's construction activity, which varies year by year. With more infrastructure projects to be implemented in 2009 and some of them involve marine works, it is estimated that the number of permits to be issued under the Dumping at Sea Ordinance will increase from 76 in 2008 to approximately 90 in 2009.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

13 March 2009

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2009-10
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INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB116

Question Serial No.

1818

Head : 44 Environmental
Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (1) Waste

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : The Administration will continue to implement the Programme on Source Separation of Waste in the territory. As the recycling trade has been hard hit by the financial tsunami, has the Administration assessed whether the said Programme will be affected?

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply :

The Environmental Protection Department will continue to encourage community participation in waste recovery and recycling through the territory-wide Programme on Source Separation of Waste (SSW Programme) which was launched in January 2005. We have constantly reviewed the effectiveness of the SSW Programme. Since the outbreak of the financial tsunami, we have checked with all the participating estates/establishments and found that the majority of them have been operating as usual although the selling price of some recyclables such as plastic has fallen as a result of the reduced demand. We have provided assistance to a few estates which reported difficulties in finding recyclers to collect the separate waste by identifying alternative recyclers. With our assistance, the recovery services are largely back to normal. We will continue to help participating estates/establishments if they have difficulties in waste recovery to ensure that the SSW Programme will not suffer any setback.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

17 March 2009

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2009-10
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB117

Question Serial No.

1819

Head : 44 Environmental
Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (1) Waste

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : The Administration will seek Legislative Council's funding approval for developing the sludge treatment facility. Please advise the estimated expenditure of the facility and the number of posts that can be created.

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply :

We plan to seek the Finance Committee of Legislative Council's funding approval for the design and construction of the sludge treatment facility (STF) at an estimated cost of \$4,730 million (in September 2008 prices).

We estimate that the project will create approximately 610 jobs during the design and construction stage of the project and the operation of the STF will create about 60 permanent jobs.

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Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

19 March 2009

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Reply Serial No.

ENB118

Question Serial No.

1820

Head : 44 Environmental
Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (2) Air

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : The actual expenditure under this Programme in 2007-08 was \$444,000,000; the revised estimate in 2008-09 was \$613,900,000; the estimated expenditure for 2009-10 is \$1,249,200,000. Please state the reasons for the persistent increase in expenditure, in particular the almost twofold increase in the estimated expenditure for 2009-10.

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply :

- (a) The revised estimate for 2008-09 is \$169.9 million higher than the actual expenditure for 2007-08. The breakdown of the major items constituting the increased cash flow requirement is as follows:
- (i) \$127.7 million for the one-off grant to encourage early replacement of Pre-Euro and Euro I diesel commercial vehicles with new ones complying with the prevailing statutory emission standard;
 - (ii) \$17.8 million for promoting cleaner production in the Pearl River Delta Region, and
 - (iii) \$19.8 million for the one-off grant to assist owners of pre-Euro diesel heavy vehicles to retrofit their vehicles with particulate removal devices.
- (b) The provision for 2009-10 is \$635.3 million higher than the revised estimate for 2008-09. The breakdown of the key items constituting the additional provision for 2009-10 is as follows:
- (i) \$614 million for the one-off grant to encourage early replacement of Pre-Euro and Euro I diesel commercial vehicles with new ones complying with the prevailing statutory emission standard;
 - (ii) \$9.6 million for the trial of ferries using ultra low sulphur diesel;
 - (iii) \$2.9 million for the creation of 13 posts in 2009-10;
 - (iv) \$2.5 million for the procurement of real-time volatile organic compounds (VOC) measurement equipment and VOC active sampler, and
 - (v) \$0.8 million for the procurement of PM2.5 measurement equipment.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

18 March 2009

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INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB119

Question Serial No.

2173

Head : 44 Environmental
Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (5) Environmental Assessment and Planning

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

- Question : (a) How many studies on environmental impact assessment (EIA) mechanisms were conducted by the Administration in the years 2004-08? Please list in detail the organisations commissioned by the Administration, the scope of work, the costs incurred and the findings of each study.
- (b) Has the Administration studied the EIA mechanisms of other countries during 2004-08? Please list by year in detail the names, the scope of work, the costs incurred and the findings of each study.
- (c) What is the current establishment for the EIA mechanism? Please give a breakdown of the number of staff currently manning the EIA mechanism, equipment required and the expenditure involved.

Asked by : Hon. HO Chun-yan, Albert

Reply :

The Environmental Protection Department (EPD) regularly reviews the operation of the EIA system with a view to enhancing its effectiveness and efficiency, by taking into account feedback from stakeholders, experiences accumulated in implementing the EIA system as well as developments and practices in overseas countries. Between 2004-08, the review process has helped to improve communication with project proponents, develop a 3D-EIA Public Engagement Tool to facilitate public participation, and issue a number of guidance notes for guiding various operation of the EIA mechanism. The review is a continual process taken up by existing staff of EPD. Hence there is no additional cost incurred.

Under the EPD establishment, there are 115 staff supporting the EIA mechanism directly. They consist of 70 professional staff, 18 inspectorate staff and 27 general grade staff. To manage applications and associated documents submitted under the EIA Ordinance, apart from general office equipment, a dedicated website has been developed to facilitate the EIA process and public participation. The maintenance cost of the website is around \$186,000 per year.

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Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

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Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

16 March 2009

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INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB120

Question Serial No.

2174

Head : 44 Environmental
Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (5) Environmental Assessment and Planning

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : (a) How many projects were processed each year under the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Ordinance in 2004-08? How many of them were rejected as a result of the EIA? Please list by reasons the number of projects rejected each year.

- (b) Will the Administration review the EIA mechanism? If yes, please list the whole process in accordance with the expected time sequence of the review. Has the review been discussed with the Advisory Council on the Environment (ACE)? If yes, please give a breakdown of the dates and contents in detail of each discussion. In case some organisations have been consulted, please list the organizations and the number of interviews. If not, why?

Asked by : Hon. HO Chun-yan, Albert

Reply :

From 2004 to 2008, the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) processed a total of 574 applications concerning various Designated Projects under the EIA Ordinance, of which 47 applications (about 8%) were rejected. All these applications were rejected because they could not meet the requirements of the EIA Ordinance and its Technical Memorandum. The respective number of rejections from 2004 to 2008 were 7, 16, 7, 13 and 4.

EPD regularly reviews the operation of the EIA system with a view to enhancing its effectiveness and efficiency, by taking into account feedback from stakeholders, experiences accumulated in implementing the EIA system as well as developments and practices in overseas countries. Between 2004-08, the review process has helped to improve communication with project proponents, develop a 3D-EIA Public Engagement Tool to facilitate public participation, and issue a number of guidance notes for guiding various operation of the EIA mechanism. So far, the review process has not come up with any major issues requiring consultation with the ACE and other organisations. The Administration will definitely seek views from ACE and other relevant organizations when the review comes up with any major issues with or proposed significant changes to the EIA mechanism.

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Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

16 March 2009

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2009-10
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB121

Question Serial No.

0275

Head : 44 Environmental
Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (3) Noise

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : In 2008, the Environmental Protection Department handled a total of 5 116 noise complaint cases. Please list the various sources of noise by type and the number of complaint cases so involved.

Asked by : Hon. HO Chung-tai, Raymond

Reply :

The Environmental Protection Department handled a total of 5 116 noise complaint cases in 2008, the number of the noise complaint cases by type are listed below:

| Complaints Type | Number |
|------------------------------|---------------|
| Construction | 1 288 |
| Neighbourhood & Public Place | 588 |
| Transport | 256 |
| Industrial & Commercial | 2 973 |
| Others, e.g. intruder alarm | 11 |
| Total | 5 116 |

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

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Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

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12 March 2009

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2009-10
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INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB122

Question Serial No.

2626

Head : 44 Environmental
Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (2) Air

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : Regarding the development of air quality objectives (AQOs), standards and guidelines, please advise:

- (a) The actions to be taken in 2009 for implementation of the above work and the expenditures involved in each action.
- (b) Whether the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) will consider conducting detailed medical studies for the development of AQOs, standards and guidelines that are for the benefits of public health. If yes, what are the details?

Asked by : Hon. KAM Nai-wai

Reply :

- (a) The consultancy study on the AQO review is expected to be completed by the middle of 2009. Upon receipt of the recommendations of the consultant on a set of new AQOs and a long term air quality management strategy for their attainment, the Administration will consult fully the public before deciding on how best to take the matter forward. The total cost of the consultancy study is about \$6.4 million. About \$3.2 million will be paid in 2009-2010. The workload arising from the review will be absorbed by our existing provisions.
- (b) Since 1997, the EPD has commissioned health experts from local universities to conduct a total of eight studies on the public health impacts and economic losses associated with air pollution. The AQO review study has also made reference to these findings to understand the health implications of air pollution in the local context. At present, we have commissioned the Chinese University of Hong Kong, in collaboration with the University of Hong Kong and the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, to study the correlation of air pollutant levels with excessive hospital admissions for development of a health-based air pollution index system. The study is expected to be completed by the end of this year.

Signature _____

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ANISSA WONG

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Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

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16 March 2009

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2009-10
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB123

Question Serial No.

2627

Head : 44 Environmental
Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (2) Air

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : Please provide the following information:

- (a) Among the targets of the key performance measures, what are the justifications for increasing "the number of days with air pollution index (API) not exceeding 100" to 295 in 2009?
- (b) Has the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) ascertained the reasons for the continuous decrease in the number of days with air pollution index not exceeding 100? If yes, what are the details?
- (c) Has EPD assessed the impact on achieving the above target if air quality objectives are to be tightened?

Asked by : Hon. KAM Nai-wai

Reply :

(a) and (b)

Both the quantity of air pollutant emissions and weather conditions can affect the daily API level. Due to the fluctuation of weather conditions from year to year, the number of days with API not exceeding 100 can vary considerably even though emission levels do not vary much on a daily basis. Among recent years, 2008 had more occurrences of weather conditions conducive to the formation of ozone, a strong oxidant, in the region via a photochemical reaction. The higher level of background ozone in the air aggravated the oxidation of nitrogen monoxide emitted from motor vehicles to nitrogen dioxide, resulting in more incidents of elevated nitrogen dioxide and hence API exceeding 100 at the roadside in the year. Hence, the number of days with API not exceeding 100 dropped from 291 in 2007 to 272 in 2008. When predicting the number of days with API not exceeding 100 for 2009, we have assumed that the weather conditions would be closer to the norm. Based on the average number of such days over the past three years including 2008, which is 290, and in anticipation of the gradual improvement of air quality upon implementation of emission control measures, we have set a target of 295 days for 2009. Such target is merely a broad-brush estimate.

- (c) Tightening the Air Quality Objectives (AQOs) will inevitably make it harder to meet the target for the number of days with API not exceeding 100. Apart from recommending a new set of AQOs, the consultancy study for the AQO review that is being conducted will also recommend a long term air quality management strategy for attaining the new AQOs, which would help achieve the API target.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

19 March 2009

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2009-10
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INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB124

Question Serial No.

2628

Head : 44 Environmental
Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (1) Waste

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : Regarding the progress of the implementation of producer responsibility schemes (PRS's), please advise:

- (a) Is it possible to commence the second phase of the legislative work for PRS in 2009 ? If yes, what are the details?
- (b) With reference to the study of possible options for implementing mandatory PRS for used electrical and electronic equipment, please provide the details, expenditure and completion date of the study.

Asked by : Hon. KAM Nai-wai

Reply :

- (a) The Product Eco-responsibility Ordinance (Cap. 603) was enacted by the Legislative Council in July 2008 to provide the legal basis for implementing producer responsibility schemes (PRS's) in Hong Kong. The environmental levy on plastic shopping bags is the first PRS to be implemented under the Ordinance. The Product Eco-responsibility (Plastic Shopping Bags) Regulation is now being considered by the Legislative Council. Subject to the approval of the Regulation by the Legislative Council, we envisage the environmental levy scheme could commence in mid-2009.

We have committed to review the environmental levy scheme after one year of implementation and consider whether and how to extend the scheme to other retail sectors. We would consider the need of legislative amendments under such context.

- (b) As pledged in the 2008-09 Policy Address, we will examine the feasibility of introducing mandatory PRS for used electrical and electronic products, including the scope of the PRS and the possible forms that it may take. We aim to consult the public and the trades on the options before the end of 2009. The work is being undertaken by EPD staff as part of their normal duties and does not incur additional expenditure in 2009-10.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

18 March 2009

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2009-10
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB125

Question Serial No.

2629

Head : 44 Environmental
Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (1) Waste

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : Regarding the bulk reduction of Municipal Solid Waste (MSW), please advise:

- (a) The effectiveness of the Source Separation of Waste Programme in 2008 and the work expected to be carried out in 2009 and the expenditure involved;
- (b) The details of study on examining possible options for MSW charging, including the scope of study, expenditure involved and completion date.

Asked by : Hon. KAM Nai-wai

Reply :

- (a) To encourage community participation in waste recovery and recycling, the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) launched a territory-wide Programme on Source Separation of Waste in January 2005. As at the end of 2008, there were 996 housing estates participating in the Programme, covering 1 230 000 households and some 53% of the population. The Programme was also expanded to cover commercial and industrial buildings in October 2007 with 442 buildings participating as at the end of 2008. Through implementing source separation and other waste reduction measures, domestic waste disposal at landfill has decreased by 4% in 2008 when compared to 2007. To further enhance the promotion of the Programme, we will continue to work with the building and property management sectors as well as relevant stakeholders to enlist more estates and buildings to join the Programme. Technical assistance by EPD's support teams as well as financial support from the Environment and Conservation Fund if required will be provided to participating estates and buildings to enhance recovery of waste at source. We will organize publicity and promotional programmes to further promote the Programme to the general public. The estimated expenditure for the Programme on Source Separation of Waste is about \$8 million in 2009-2010. In addition, the ECF has also allocated a total of \$14.2 million to support the Programme.
- (b) We are conducting a baseline study to collect key information on waste generation pattern and waste management practices among different types of commercial and industrial establishments. The information collected would form the basis for the development of a practicable MSW charging scheme. We aim to complete the study in the second half of 2009. The baseline study is estimated to cost \$1.25 million, and the related expenditure in 2009-10 is about \$878,000.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

17 March 2009

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2009-10
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INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB126

Question Serial No.

2653

Head : 44 Environmental Protection Subhead (No. & title):
Department

Programme : (6) Nature Conservation

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : As regards the Nature Conservation under the programme, please advise:

- (a) The present state of conservation of the 12 priority sites identified for enhanced conservation and the nature conservation measures implemented by the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) for the said sites in the past year (i.e. 2008-09);
- (b) The implementation progress of the pilot schemes for public-private partnership (PPP) and management agreement projects; and
- (c) The actions to be taken and costs involved against illegal destruction of sites for conservation in 2009-10.

Asked by : Hon. KAM Nai-wai

Reply :

(a) and (b)

The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) regularly monitors and conducts surveys at the 12 priority sites identified for enhanced conservation, and they are all currently in good conditions.

Two of the priority sites, namely Fung Yuen and Long Valley, are now under active conservation by means of conservation management agreement projects. In 2008, the Environmental Conservation Fund granted a total of \$6.8 million for the two projects to continue for another 2 years. So far, the projects have achieved promising results in enhancing the conservation value of the sites.

In 2008, the Government completed the assessment of the applications received under the PPP and, upon seeking advice from the Advisory Council on the Environment (ACE), informed the applicants of the results and the recommendations of the ACE on these projects. As only the Sha Lo Tung project was supported for the time being, we are liaising closely with the project proponent and departments concerned so as to take forward the project.

(c)

In 2009-10, the financial provision for "Nature Conservation" under Head 44 – EPD is to cover the relevant personal emoluments and associated general departmental expenses of the EPD for formulating policies and overseeing the implementation of government programmes on nature conservation. \$455.8 million has however been earmarked for the "Nature Conservation and Country Parks Programme" under Head 22 – AFCD for the management and protection of protected areas, promotion of public awareness of nature conservation and enforcement of nature conservation legislation.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

16 March 2009

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2009-10
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INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB127

Question Serial No.

2654

Head : 44 Environmental
Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (4) Water

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : Regarding the indicators on "inland water sampling points" and "the sampling points classified", please give the reasons for water samples being classified as "Bad" or "Very Bad". What measures will be taken by the Administration to improve the water quality? What are the details of these measures and what is the estimated expenditure?

Asked by : Hon. KAM Nai-wai

Reply :

Our river water quality monitoring programme has a total of 82 stations covering 30 rivers and streams in Hong Kong. Based on the monitoring results in 2008, the stations graded "Bad" and "Very Bad" are mainly located in the northwestern New Territories. The poor water quality is principally attributed to the discharge of unsewered villages, livestock waste and to some extent, illegal and misconnections.

In order to tackle the pollution problem, the Administration has implemented the following measures:

- (a) Introduced two schemes for voluntary surrender of farm licences by the poultry and pig farmers in 2005 and 2006 respectively;
- (b) Continue to provide sewerage infrastructure in the New Territories (not including outlying islands) at an estimated expenditure of \$554 million and \$675 million in 2008-09 and 2009-10 respectively;
- (c) Continue to rectify expedient connections and misconnections as well as defects in the public sewerage system; and
- (d) Continue to enforce the Water Pollution Control Ordinance and the Waste Disposal Ordinance to stop illegal discharge.

In light of the above measures, we observe improvement of the water quality of the major rivers and streams in the New Territories. For example, the number of stations with "Bad" and "Very bad" gradings has been reducing from 14 in 2000 to 10 in 2008.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

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Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

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20 March 2009

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INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB128

Question Serial No.

2655

Head : 44 Environmental Protection Subhead (No. & title):
Department

Programme : (2) Air

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : Regarding the improvement of emissions from vehicles, please advise:

- (a) The effectiveness of the co-ordinated inter-departmental efforts to reduce emissions from vehicles and the details of work to be taken in 2009-10 as well as the expenditure so involved.
- (b) Whether the grant scheme for franchised bus companies to replace vehicles and the mandatory phasing out of high-emission vehicles will be taken as measures for improving emissions. If yes, what are the details?
- (c) The details of developing biodiesel as motor vehicle fuel.

Asked by : Hon. KAM Nai-wai

Reply :

- (a) The co-ordinated inter-departmental efforts have been effective in reducing the emissions from vehicles. Through these efforts, a host of vehicle emission reduction measures have been launched since 1999. The major ones include the liquefied petroleum gas vehicle programme, the programme to retrofit pre-Euro diesel vehicles with emission reduction devices, incentive schemes to promote the use of environment-friendly vehicles, and a one-off grant scheme to encourage the early retirement of pre-Euro and Euro I diesel commercial vehicles with new ones. These efforts have improved roadside air quality. As compared with 1999, the concentrations of respirable suspended particulates and nitrogen oxides at the roadside have been reduced by 21% and 23% respectively in 2008. The number of smoky vehicles has also been reduced by about 80%.

In 2009-10, we plan to introduce legislation to ban idling vehicles with running engines and a set of statutory specifications for biodiesel as motor vehicle fuel. We are also studying the technical feasibility of setting up a pilot low emission zone prohibiting entry by more polluting franchised buses. We will deploy existing resources for these works. We would continue to administer the subsidy scheme for replacing pre-Euro and Euro I diesel commercial vehicles with new commercial vehicles.

- (b) Franchised buses are not covered in the approved scope of the current \$3,176 million subsidy scheme for replacing pre-Euro and Euro I diesel commercial vehicles. Mandating the retirement of old commercial vehicles will have grave implications for the transport trades. Vehicle owners who cannot afford to replace their old commercial vehicles will be forced out of business. We do not therefore have any plan to force the retirement of old commercial vehicles on a compulsory basis.
- (c) We are developing a legislative proposal on the specifications of biodiesel when used as motor vehicle fuel. The specifications will be included in the Air Pollution Control (Motor Vehicle Fuel) Regulation. Furthermore, the Administration has decided not to impose duty on biodiesel used as motor vehicle fuel.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

19 March 2009

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**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB129

Question Serial No.

0247

Head : 44 Environmental
Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (1) Waste

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : In 2009-2010, the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) will continue with the leasing of lots in the EcoPark in Tuen Mun Area 38. Please advise:

- (a) What is the estimated expenditure involved in the tendering exercise?
- (b) Would the EPD expedite the tendering exercise and what are the means to do so in order to attract more industries of different nature to set up business in the EcoPark?
- (c) What is the timetable for the tendering exercise?
- (d) How is the operation of the current tenants? How many tenants are in operation or planning to set up their businesses, and how many have surrendered their tenancies?

Asked by : Hon. LAM Kin-fung, Jeffrey

Reply :

- (a) The expenditure of the tendering exercise is funded by existing resources in the EPD. There is no additional expenditure in 2009-10 for this work.
- (b) The 20-hectare EcoPark is developed in two phases. In Phase I, all six lots have been leased. EPD is reviewing the leasing arrangements of Phase II in the light of the experience gained in Phase I, feedback from the stakeholders and the recycling trades as well as other relevant factors. We aim to complete the review in time for intake of tenants when the infrastructure works of Phase II are completed by end of 2009.
- (c) The infrastructure works of Phase II of the EcoPark started in December 2008 and are anticipated to be completed in end 2009. The selection of tenants for the lots will commence thereafter as soon as practicable.
- (d) All six lots in Phase I of the EcoPark have been leased in different trades including recycling wood, plastics, computers, waste cooking oil, metals and acid batteries. The tenants are making progress in obtaining approvals required under the Buildings Ordinance and planning for the construction of their plants. Some tenants have already started to collect materials recovered from local sources.

Signature _____

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ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

17 March 2009

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**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB130

Question Serial No.

0248

Head : 44 Environmental
Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (1) Waste

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : According to the Environmental Protection Department, during 2009-10, it will continue to implement voluntary producer responsibility schemes (PRS) and examine possible mandatory PRS options for used electrical and electronic equipment. Please state:

- (a) What is the content of the examination? What kind of used electrical and electronic equipment will be included?
- (b) What is the schedule of the examination?
- (c) What is the expenditure incurred?

Asked by : Hon. LAM Kin-fung, Jeffrey

Reply :

The Product Eco-responsibility Ordinance was enacted by the Legislative Council in July 2008 to provide the legal basis for the introduction of PRS's for various products, with the environmental levy scheme on plastic shopping bags being the first scheme under the Ordinance. As pledged in the 2008-09 Policy Address, we will examine the feasibility of introducing mandatory PRS for used electrical and electronic products, including the scope of the PRS and the possible forms that it may take. We aim to consult the public and the trades on the options before the end of 2009. The task is being undertaken by EPD staff and does not incur additional expenditure in 2009-10.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

12 March 2009

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INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB131

Question Serial No.

0249

Head : 44 Environmental
Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (2) Air

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : The Environmental Protection Department estimated that "the number of days with air pollution index (API) not exceeding 100" in 2009 is 295 while there were 272 such days in 2008 and 291 days in 2007. Please advise:

- (a) What are the reasons for the condition in 2009 expected to improve if compared with 2008?
- (b) What are the reasons for 70 days expected still to be with air pollution index exceeding 100?
- (c) What are the measures for improving air pollution and reducing the number of high pollution days?
- (d) What are the expenditures involved in implementation of the above measures?

Asked by : Hon. LAM Kin-fung, Jeffrey

Reply :

(a) and (b)

Both the quantity of air pollutant emissions and weather conditions can affect the daily API level. Owing to the difficulty in predicting the weather conditions in any future years, we cannot predict for 2009 in any precise terms the number of days with API not exceeding 100. Among recent years, 2008 had more occurrences of weather conditions conducive to the formation of ozone, a strong oxidant, in the region via a photochemical reaction. The higher level of background ozone in the air aggravated the oxidation of nitrogen monoxide emitted from motor vehicles to nitrogen dioxide, resulting in more incidents of elevated nitrogen dioxide and hence API exceeding 100 at the roadside in the year. Hence, the number of days with API not exceeding 100 dropped from 291 in 2007 to 272 in 2008. When predicting the number of days with API not exceeding 100 for 2009, we have assumed that the weather conditions would be closer to the norm. Based on the average number of such days over the past three years including 2008, which is 290, and in anticipation of the gradual improvement of air quality upon implementation of emission control measures, we have set a target of 295 days for 2009. The corresponding predicted number of days with API exceeding 100 is 70. As noted above, these predictions are merely broad-brush estimates.

(c) To improve air quality, the HKSAR Government and the Guangdong Provincial Government are working jointly to reduce the emissions of four major air pollutants, namely sulphur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, respirable suspended particulates and volatile organic compounds by 40%, 20%, 55% and 55% respectively in the region by 2010, using 1997 as the base year. In 2009, the HKSAR Government will

- continue to progressively tighten emissions caps on the power stations;
- continue to implement existing and develop new measures to reduce vehicle emissions. The major ones include incentivizing the early replacement of pre-Euro and Euro I diesel commercial vehicles by new ones, encouraging the use of environment-friendly vehicles,

studying the feasibility of introducing a pilot low emission zone scheme targeting at old franchised buses, strengthening the emission control of in-use petrol and liquefied petroleum gas vehicles, developing a specification for biodiesel as motor vehicle fuel, developing a legislative proposal to ban idling vehicles with running engines, etc.;

- regulate the contents of volatile organic compounds in architectural paints, printing inks and selected consumer products in phase;
- develop a proposal to control emissions from off-road mobile sources and conduct a trial of local ferries using ultra low sulphur diesel.

(d) The measures mentioned above are part and parcel of Programme (2) Air. Resources required for 2009-10 will be covered by provision under the programme.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ANISSA WONG

Post Title Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date 19 March 2009

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2009-10
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB132

Question Serial No.

0250

Head : 44 Environmental
Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (2) Air

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : The Environmental Protection Department (EPD) will develop specifications on using biodiesel as motor vehicle fuel in 2009-10. Please advise this Committee:

- (a) When are the new specifications expected to be finalized?
- (b) What is the estimated annual supply of biodiesel? Is it adequate to meet the demand?
- (c) What is the estimated price for the biodiesel for vehicle use? What is the price difference as compared to Euro V diesel? Has duty been included in the retail price?
- (d) Will EPD earmark additional provision for expenditure in this regard?

Asked by : Hon. LAM Kin-fung, Jeffrey

Reply :

- (a) The EPD plans to introduce in 2009 a set of statutory specifications for biodiesel as motor vehicle fuel.
- (b) According to information available to us, biodiesel is mainly used in Hong Kong for industrial purposes. It is not commonly used as motor vehicle fuel yet. The current limited usage of biodiesel locally does not enable us to make any meaningful forecast on the demand for biodiesel, which is essentially market-driven.
- (c) Biodiesel is not yet commonly available and used as motor vehicle fuel in Hong Kong. According to overseas experience, biodiesel is generally more expensive than fossil diesel. The Administration has continued not to impose duty on biodiesel in order to promote its use.
- (d) EPD will deploy existing resources for developing the specifications for biodiesel.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

16 March 2009

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INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB133

Question Serial No.

0251

Head : 44 Environmental Protection
Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (2) Air

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : During 2009-10, the Environmental Protection Department will work with the Guangdong authorities to formulate a strategy to transform the Pearl River Delta (PRD) Region into a green and quality living area. Please advise:

- (a) What are the specific details of the strategy?
- (b) When will the specific details of the air quality objectives (AQOs) beyond 2010 be developed and when will they be announced?
- (c) Will there any expenditures be involved?

Asked by : Hon. LAM Kin-fung, Jeffrey

Reply :

- (a) On the basis of the existing cooperation platform, Guangdong and Hong Kong have agreed last year to further deepen and enhance co-operation on the environmental front. Both sides would jointly draw up strategies to transform the PRD Region into a green and quality living area. The new co-operation strategies will be underpinned by the principle of promoting environmental protection and sustainable development, and seeks to develop a more comprehensive and forward looking approach in taking forward regional environmental cooperation. The focus is to develop the PRD Region into a low-carbon, high-technology and low-pollution city cluster of quality living.

Under the proposed new mode of regional environmental co-operation, both sides will continue to take forward current initiatives under the Hong Kong-Guangdong Joint Working Group on Sustainable Development and Environmental Protection. These include continuing to implement emission reduction measures under the Regional Air Quality Management Plan, jointly working towards achievement of the 2010 emission reduction targets, implement measures to improve water quality in the region, and actively promoting energy efficiency and cleaner production amongst industrial enterprises in both places. Both sides will also seek to extend cooperation to other areas in our quest for deepening regional environment co-operation, and to integrate environmental protection into economic development. Initial ideas being explored for enhanced co-operation under this new framework include (1) encouraging wider use of and research in renewable energy; (2) promoting co-operation in respect of the development of the infrastructure and supply of cleaner energy, and drawing up a longer term plan to jointly increase use of cleaner energy; (3) promoting the development of circular economy; (4) facilitating wider use of electric vehicles; (5) enhancing cleaner production in the region; and (6) mapping out an air emission reduction arrangement to jointly tackle the regional air pollution problem. This initiative will help enhance the overall competitiveness and quality of life of the whole region.

- (b) In respect of the post-2010 arrangement for improving regional air quality, both sides have agreed to work on an air pollutant reduction arrangement with a view to continuously improving air quality, enhancing co-operation in cleaner production, setting up joint mechanisms in pollution control and reduction, and progressively adopting emission standards that are more advanced than other places in the Mainland. Both sides will hold more in depth discussions on this area.
- (c) Both sides will further consider the cooperation details for transforming the PRD region into a green and quality living area. Whether or not additional resources would be required for taking forward the strategy needs to be further assessed.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

12 March 2009

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INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB134

Question Serial No.

2317

Head : 44 Environmental
Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title): 700
General non-recurrent (Item 568
One-off grant to assist owners of
pre-Euro diesel heavy vehicles to
retrofit their vehicles with
particulate removal devices)

Programme : (2) Air

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental
Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : For item 568: one-off grant to assist owners of pre-Euro diesel heavy vehicles to retrofit
their vehicles with particulate removal devices, please advise:

- (a) How many vehicles were involved for the revised expenditure of \$21,000,000 in
2008-2009;
- (b) What is the estimated expenditure for 2009-2010 and how many vehicles are
involved; and
- (c) Since the implementation of the grant, the related expenditure has been
approaching 60% of the approved commitment as of 2008-2009. Can the actual
number of devices installed meet the expected target set by the Administration?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kin-ye, Miriam

Reply :

- (a) The installation work under the one-off grant scheme to assist vehicle owners to retrofit their
pre-Euro diesel heavy vehicles with particulate removal devices was completed in end 2004.
However, the installation contractors are required to provide a 5-year warranty for each of the
devices under their installation. To ensure that the contractors fully discharge the warranty
obligation, we have retained for each vehicle installed by them 10% of the installation cost
payable by the Administration (i.e. the retention money). The retention money for each
installed vehicle will be paid to the responsible contractor at the end of the warranty period if he
has satisfied the warranty requirement for the vehicle. The revised expenditure of
\$21,000,000 in 2008-2009 was for paying the retention money for about 20 500 vehicles.
- (b) The estimated expenditure for 2009-2010 is about \$13 million for the afore-mentioned retention
money payment for about 11 700 vehicles.
- (c) About 36 500 vehicles, accounting for 97% of the eligible vehicles, participated in the one-off
grant scheme.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

13 March 2009

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2009-10
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB135

Question Serial No.

1152

Head : 44 Environmental
Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (2) Air

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : The revised expenditure of \$613.9 million for 2008-09 represents a decrease of 59.3% on the original estimate of \$1,506.8 million while the estimate of \$1,249.2 million for 2009-10 doubles that for the previous year. Please advise:

- (a) The reasons for the substantial revision of the estimate for 2008-09 and provide a breakdown of the reduction in expenditures; and
- (b) The new items involved with the substantial increase of estimate for 2009-10 and its detailed breakdown.

Asked by : Hon. LAU Sau-shing, Patrick

Reply :

- (a) The revised estimate for 2008-09 is lower than the original estimate mainly because of the reduced cash flow requirement of about \$890 million for the one-off grant to encourage early replacement of pre-Euro and Euro I diesel commercial vehicles with new ones complying with the prevailing statutory emission standard.
- (b) A breakdown of the additional provision for 2009-10 is as follows:
 - (i) \$614 million for the aforementioned one-off grant scheme;
 - (ii) \$9.6 million for the trial of ferry using ultra low sulphur diesel;
 - (iii) \$2.9 million for the creation of 13 new posts for enhancing the work under the Air Programme in 2009-10;
 - (iv) \$2.5 million for the procurement of real-time volatile organic compounds (VOC) measurement equipment and VOC active samples; and
 - (v) \$0.8 million for the procurement of PM2.5 measurement equipment.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

12 March 2009

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2009-10
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB136

Question Serial No.

1153

Head : 44 Environmental Protection
Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (2) Air

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : Regarding this Programme, please advise:

- (a) The reasons for the difference of more than 5% as the performance indicator of "the number of days with air pollution index (API) not exceeding 100" decreased from 291 days for 2007 to 272 days for 2008;
- (b) The measures and the breakdown of expenditures in respect of the Administration's plans to enhance "the number of days with API not exceeding 100" for 2009 to 295 days;
- (c) Whether the Administration has set a time schedule to meet the target of "the number of days with API not exceeding 100" for the whole year. If yes, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Sau-shing, Patrick

Reply :

- (a) Among recent years, 2008 had more occurrences of weather conditions conducive to the formation of ozone, a strong oxidant, in the region via a photochemical reaction. The higher level of background ozone in the air aggravated the oxidation of nitrogen monoxide emitted from motor vehicles to nitrogen dioxide, resulting in more incidents of elevated nitrogen dioxide and hence API exceeding 100 at the roadside in the year. Hence, the number of days with API not exceeding 100 in the year dropped to 272 from 291 in 2007.
- (b) The target number of days with API not exceeding 100 for 2009 is the average number of such days over the past three years including 2008. The underlying assumptions are that the weather conditions would be closer to the norm and there would be gradual improvement of air quality due to implementation of emission control measures.

In 2009, the HKSAR Government will take the following air quality improvement measures, which also help meet the emission reduction targets for the Pearl River Delta (PRD) Region by 2010 that the HKSAR Government and the Guangdong Provincial Government have agreed to attain on a best endeavour basis:

- continue to progressively tighten emissions caps on the power stations;
- continue to implement existing measures and develop new ones to reduce vehicle emissions. The major initiatives include incentivizing the early replacement of pre-Euro and Euro I diesel commercial vehicles by new ones, encouraging the use of environment-friendly vehicles, studying the feasibility of introducing a pilot low emission zone scheme targeting at old franchised buses, strengthening the emission control of in-use petrol and liquefied petroleum gas vehicles, developing a specification for biodiesel as motor vehicle fuel, developing a legislative proposal to ban idling vehicles with running engines, etc.;
- regulate the contents of volatile organic compounds in architectural paints, printing inks and selected consumer products in phase; and

- develop a proposal to control emissions from off-road mobile sources and conduct a trial of local ferries using ultra low sulphur diesel.

The measures are part and parcel of Programme (2) Air. Resources required for 2009-10 will be covered by provision under the Programme.

- (c) It is our goal to achieve an API reading of below 100 for the entire year. To this end, we have been working together with the Guangdong Provincial Government to reduce the emissions in the whole PRD Region. To further improve air quality, we are now reviewing the Hong Kong Air Quality Objectives (AQOs), taking account of the Air Quality Guidelines of the World Health Organisation and practices of other advanced countries. Apart from recommending a new set of AQOs, the review will recommend a package of emission reduction measures to achieve the new AQOs.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ANISSA WONG

Post Title Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date 17 March 2009

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2009-10
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INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB137

Question Serial No.

2702

Head : 44 Environmental
Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (6) Nature Conservation

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : According to the Administration, the increase to \$7.1 million in the revised estimate for 2008-09 (an increase of 24.6%) was due to the required provision for the consultancy study on green procurement. Please give a breakdown of the content and findings of the study and the provision involved.

Asked by : Hon. LAU Sau-shing, Patrick

Reply :

In August 2008, the Environmental Protection Department reserved \$1 million to commission a consultancy study to update the existing green specifications, and develop new specifications for more items commonly procured by the Administration with a view to expanding the scope of green procurement. These items include paper products and cleaning products, computer equipment, telecommunication products, electrical appliances and furniture.

The study will be completed by mid-2009. The Administration will make reference to the findings of the study and procure more environmental-friendly items with the updated green specifications.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

16 March 2009

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INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB138

Question Serial No.

0088

Head : 44 Environmental
Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (4) Water

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : In 2008, EPD brought 36 prosecutions for water pollution control offences. How many cases involved pollution of streams in the New Territories?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Wong-fat

Reply :

In 2008, the Environmental Protection Department proceeded with a total of 36 prosecutions under the Water Pollution Control Ordinance. Of these prosecutions, 15 cases were related to pollution of streams in the New Territories.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

11 March 2009

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2009-10
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INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB139

Question Serial No.

0089

Head : 44 Environmental
Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (4) Water

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : What are the criteria used by EPD for selecting the 82 inland water sampling points in 2008? How many of them are along the streams in the New Territories?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Wong-fat

Reply :

The river water monitoring programme, which started in 1986, is designed to inform the public on the water quality of our inland waters, to show long-term changes in water quality, and to provide the basis for the planning and implementation of pollution control strategies. In order to meet the above objectives, all major rivers and streams are covered by this programme. For some of the major rivers and streams, monitoring stations are set up at the upper, middle and lower stretches of the watercourse, and the monitoring results enable us to comprehensively evaluate and monitor the effectiveness of the pollution control measures.

At present, a total of 82 monitoring stations are set up at 30 rivers and streams across the territory. Out of this total, 72 stations are set up at 27 streams and rivers in the New Territories

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

11 March 2009

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INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB140

Question Serial No.

0090

Head : 44 Environmental
Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (4) Water

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : The water quality of 10% of the sampling points of Environmental Protection Department is classified as bad whereas 3% is classified as very bad. What are their locations?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Wong-fat

Reply :

Our river water quality monitoring programme has a total of 82 stations covering 30 rivers and streams in Hong Kong. Based on the monitoring results in 2008, the grading of 8 stations (10%) was "Bad", and the grading of 2 stations (3%) was "Very Bad", as listed below : .

| Location | Station Identification | Station Coordinates | Grading |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------|
| River Ganges | GR1 | 22°32'20.9"; 114°8'44.9" | Bad |
| Tseng Lan Shue Stream | JR3 | 22°20'00.4"; 114°14'23.9" | Bad |
| Tuen Mun River | TN1 | 22°24'54.8"; 113°58'49.1" | Bad |
| Fairview Park Nullah | FVR1 | 22°26'57.5"; 114°2'44.9" | Bad |
| Kam Tin River | KT1 | 22°26'24.3"; 114°3'29.0" | Bad |
| Yuen Long Creek | YL1 | 22°26'19.5"; 114°1'33.0" | Bad |
| Yuen Long Creek | YL2 | 22°26'20.1"; 114°1'34.4" | Bad |
| Yuen Long Creek | YL4 | 22°26'55.2"; 114°1'33.8" | Bad |
| Kam Tin River | KT2 | 22°26'32.8"; 114°3'30.5" | Very Bad |
| Yuen Long Creek | YL3 | 22°26'55.3"; 114°1'33.2" | Very Bad |

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

17 March 2009

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2009-10
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INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB141

Question Serial No.

1875

Head : 44 Environmental
Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (1) Waste

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : On the tender exercise inviting tenancy of lots in the Ecopark site in Tuen Mun, please advise:

- (a) The number of implemented tenancy projects and their operation; and
- (b) What measures will be used to improve the low tenancy rate of the Ecopark site.

Asked by : Hon. LEE Wing-tat

Reply :

- (a) The 20-hectare EcoPark is developed in two phases. All six lots in Phase I of the EcoPark have been leased for recycling wood, plastics, computers, waste cooking oil, metals and batteries. The tenants are making progress in obtaining approvals required under the Buildings Ordinance and planning for the construction of their plants. Some tenants have already started to collect materials recovered from local sources.
- (b) The infrastructure works of Phase II of the EcoPark started in December 2008 and are anticipated to be completed in end 2009. The Environmental Protection Department is reviewing the leasing arrangements for Phase II in the light of the experience in Phase I, feedback from the stakeholders and the recycling trades as well as other relevant factors. We aim to complete the review in time for the intake of tenants before end 2009.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

17 March 2009

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INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB142

Question Serial No.

1876

Head : 44 Environmental
Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (1) Waste

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : Please advise the details of the feasibility study on the West New Territories Landfill extension scheme, including its scope of study, expenditure involved and completion date.

Asked by : Hon. LEE Wing-tat

Reply :

The feasibility study for the extension of West New Territories Landfill commenced in March 2007 at an estimated cost of around \$11 million. This study covers the environmental impact assessment (EIA) and the engineering feasibility of the proposed extension scheme. It is envisaged that the EIA Report will be ready for public inspection and submission to the Advisory Council on the Environment in accordance with EIA Ordinance in mid 2009. The feasibility study is targeted for completion by the end of 2009. As at end Feb 2009, the cumulative expenditure on the study was around \$6.5 million.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

17 March 2009

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INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB143

Question Serial No.

1877

Head : 44 Environmental
Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (1) Waste

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : Please give the details of all prosecutions for marine dumping offences and illegal deposit of waste offences in 2008 and the penalties for these offences.

Asked by : Hon. LEE Wing-tat

Reply :

In 2008, the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) proceeded with a total of 4 prosecutions under the Dumping at Sea Ordinance (DASO), Section 8(1)(d) and 28 prosecutions on illegal depositing of waste under the Waste Disposal Ordinance (WDO), Section 16(A), respectively. The details are as follows:

| Ordinance | No. of Prosecutions | No. of Convictions | Fine (HK\$) |
|--|---------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| DASO (Dredged sediment) | 4 | 2 | 10,000 to 15,000 |
| WDO | | | |
| (i) Construction Waste related | 16 | 16 | 1,000 to 10,000 |
| (ii) Other Waste (e.g. packaging waste, furniture, etc.) | 12 | 12 | 200 to 2,000 |

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
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Date _____

13 March 2009

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INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB144

Question Serial No.

1878

Head : 44 Environmental
Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (1) Waste

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : Please give the details of work to be done by Environmental Protection Department (EPD) in combating illegal disposal of waste in 2009 and the estimated expenditure involved.

Asked by : Hon. LEE Wing-tat

Reply :

In 2009, the EPD will continue its enhanced efforts to combat illegal deposition of waste, especially construction waste. The EPD will continue to coordinate with other Government departments in handling complaints, clearing deposited wastes and taking enforcement actions against illegal activities under Waste Disposal Ordinance. To facilitate better co-ordinated actions, the EPD will maintain the database containing information of the sites subject to complaints of illegal landfilling activities. The EPD has promulgated guidelines for inter-departmental co-ordinated efforts in responding to complaints of illegal disposal of construction and demolition materials. It will continue to conduct briefings to landowners, construction waste transporters and property developers/contractors/managers about the various legal requirements. The EPD will also implement a trial remote monitoring scheme at two selected illegal waste disposed blackspots using closed-circuit television (CCTV). The estimated additional expense incurred for all the aforementioned work is about \$3 million. In parallel, the EPD will step up ambush and enforcement actions using existing resources.

As these actions form part of the EPD's routine integrated enforcement practices that cover a wide range of enforcement activities against different aspects of environmental pollution, it is not possible to provide a breakdown of expense specifically on tackling illegal deposition of waste.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

19 March 2009

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INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB145

Question Serial No.

1709

Head : 44 Environmental Protection Department Subhead (No. & title):

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : Will the Administration inform this Committee the reasons for increasing 21 non-directorate posts, the nature, salaries, rank of those posts?

Asked by : Hon. SHEK Lai-him, Abraham

Reply :

The details of the 21 non-directorate posts are :

| | No. of Post / Rank | Nature of Work | Annual Salaries |
|-----|---|---|------------------------|
| (1) | 1 Environmental Protection Officer & 1 Senior Environmental Protection Inspector (2 posts) | To strengthen the collaboration and liaison with the Guangdong Government with a view to improving the regional environment and promoting cleaner production. | \$0.90 million |
| (2) | 1 Environmental Protection Officer & 1 Environmental Protection Inspector (2 posts) | To support initiatives related to combating climate change and promoting carbon reduction in Hong Kong. | \$0.75 million |
| (3) | 1 Senior Environmental Protection Officer, 1 Environmental Protection Officer, 1 Senior Environmental Protection Inspector & 1 Environmental Protection Inspector (4 posts) | To enhance the control on air pollution from vehicles and other mobile sources. | \$2.20 million |
| (4) | 1 Senior Environmental Protection Inspector & 2 Environmental Protection Inspectors (3 posts) | To enhance the monitoring of fine suspended particulates and support assessment of air quality in the Pearl River Delta region. | \$0.90 million |
| (5) | 1 Environmental Protection Officer & 1 Senior Environmental Protection Inspector (2 posts) | To develop an air quality management plan for achieving the new air quality objectives. | \$0.90 million |
| (6) | 1 Senior Environmental Protection Inspector & 1 Environmental Protection Inspector (2 posts) | To support the development and implementation of joint regional action plans to improve and sustain the overall aquatic environment of the Pearl River Estuary. | \$0.65 million |
| (7) | 1 Senior Environmental Protection Officer, 1 Environmental Protection Officer, 2 Senior Environmental Protection Inspectors & 2 Environmental Protection Inspectors (6 posts) | To implement the environmental levy on plastic shopping bags. | \$2.84 million |

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ **ANISSA WONG** _____

Post Title _____ **Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection** _____

Date _____ **19 March 2009** _____

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Reply Serial No.

ENB146

Question Serial No.

1710

Head : 44 Environmental
Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (1) Waste

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : As mentioned in the Controlling Officer's report, 1 230 000 households have joined the source separation of domestic waste programme. In this connection, will the Government inform this Committee the target number of this year? What measures will be introduced to enhance the promotion of the programme?

Asked by : Hon. SHEK Lai-him, Abraham

Reply :

To encourage community participation in waste recovery and recycling, the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) launched a territory-wide Programme on Source Separation of Domestic Waste in January 2005. As at the end of 2008, there were 996 housing estates participating in the Programme, covering 1 230 000 households and some 53% of the population. The target for 2009 is 1 140 participating housing estates, covering about 1 560 000 households and 67% of the population. To further enhance the promotion of the Programme, we will continue to work with the building and property management sectors as well as relevant stakeholders to enlist more estates and buildings to join the Programme. Technical assistance by EPD's support teams as well as financial support from the Environment and Conservation Fund if required will be provided to participating estates and buildings to enhance recovery of waste at source. We will organize publicity and promotional programmes to further promote the Programme to the general public.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

13 March 2009

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INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB147

Question Serial No.

1711

Head : 44 Environmental
Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (1) Waste

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : Under "Matters requiring special attention in 2009-10", a baseline study will be conducted to examine possible options for Municipal Solid Waste charging, will the Government inform this Committee the subject, scope, commencement and completion dates, and cost of the study?

Asked by : Hon. SHEK Lai-him, Abraham

Reply :

The baseline study aims to collect information on waste generation pattern and waste management practices among different types of commercial and industrial establishments through questionnaire and on-site survey. The information collected would facilitate the development of municipal solid waste charging options. The study was commenced in November 2008, and we aim to complete the study in the second half of 2009. The entire baseline study is estimated to cost \$1.25 million, and the related expenditure in 2009-10 is about \$878,000.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

17 March 2009

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Reply Serial No.

ENB148

Question Serial No.

1712

Head : 44 Environmental
Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (1) Waste

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : Regarding the engineering and environmental assessment studies for developing the first phase of the large-scale waste treatment facilities, as mentioned under "Matters requiring special attention in 2009-10", will the Administration inform us the subject, scope, commencement and completion dates, and cost of the study?

Asked by : Hon. SHEK Lai-him, Abraham

Reply :

We plan to develop Integrated Waste Management Facilities (IWMF) with advanced incineration as the core technology to substantially reduce the volume of municipal solid waste by some 90%, thereby extending the life span of the existing landfills and their extension. We have identified Tsang Tsui in Tuen Mun and Shek Kwu Chau to the south of Lantau Island as two potential sites for the development of the IWMF. The final choice of site has not been made pending completion of the engineering and environmental impact assessment studies. The studies have commenced in November 2008 and are scheduled for completion in mid 2010. The estimated costs for the studies are HK\$20.5 million.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

18 March 2009

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INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB149

Question Serial No.

1713

Head : 44 Environmental
Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (1) Waste

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : Regarding the feasibility study for the extension of West New Territories Landfill as mentioned in "Matters requiring special attention in 2009-10", will the Government inform this Committee the latest progress and completion date of the study? What is the expenditure on the study so far?

Asked by : Hon. SHEK Lai-him, Abraham

Reply :

The feasibility study for the extension of West New Territories Landfill commenced in March 2007 at an estimated cost of around \$11 million. This study covers the environmental impact assessment (EIA) and the engineering feasibility of the proposed extension scheme. It is envisaged that the EIA Report will be ready for public inspection and submission to the Advisory Council on the Environment in accordance with EIA Ordinance in mid 2009. The feasibility study is targeted for completion by the end of 2009. As at end Feb 2009, the cumulative expenditure on the study was around \$6.5 million.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ **ANISSA WONG**

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____ 17 March 2009

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INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB150

Question Serial No.

1714

Head : 44 Environmental
Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (1) Waste

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : As mentioned in "Matters requiring special attention in 2009-10", the Administration will prepare regulations to strengthen control on the collection and disposal of clinical waste. In this connection, will the Administration inform us the details, implementation timetable of the plan?

Asked by : Hon. SHEK Lai-him, Abraham

Reply :

To enhance control on the disposal of clinical waste, the Waste Disposal Ordinance (WDO) was amended in 2006 to provide for a legal framework for implementing a clinical waste control scheme. Under the scheme, clinical waste producers will have to employ licensed collectors to collect and transport their clinical waste for treatment and disposal at licensed disposal facilities. The detailed regulatory requirements on the management of clinical waste for clinical waste producers, collectors and the operators of clinical waste disposal facilities will be set out in the form of subsidiary legislation under the WDO. We will introduce the regulations into the Legislative Council when ready.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

20 March 2009

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INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB151

Question Serial No.

1733

Head : 44 Environmental
Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (2) Air

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : Regarding the one-off grant to encourage the early replacement of pre-Euro and Euro I diesel commercial vehicles, will the Administration inform this Committee the number of applications since the launching of the grant scheme? How much money has been granted? What measures will be introduced to further promote the grant scheme?

Asked by : Hon. SHEK Lai-him, Abraham

Reply :

As at 28 February 2009, the total number of applications approved under the one-off grant scheme was 10 922 and the corresponding grant payment was about \$459 million since the launching of the grant scheme.

The existing subsidy scheme has provided considerable fiscal incentive for owners of pre-Euro and Euro I diesel commercial vehicles to replace them with new ones. To provide further impetus to phase out old commercial vehicles, we consider it necessary to introduce disincentives against their continued use such as increasing their vehicle licence fees. However, when the proposal was discussed at the Panel on Environmental Affairs of the Council, members expressed concern on the likely adverse impact to the trades, particularly, during the financial tsunami. We will continue to examine how to accelerate the replacement of these vehicles.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

18 March 2009

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INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB152

Question Serial No.

1734

Head : 44 Environmental
Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (2) Air

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : Under the "Matters requiring special attention in 2009-10", it is said that a trial scheme on the feasibility of local ferries using ultra low sulphur diesel will be conducted, will the Administration inform this Committee the details and commencement date of the scheme?

Asked by : Hon. SHEK Lai-him, Abraham

Reply :

The trial is to ascertain the technical feasibility of local ferries using ultra low sulphur diesel (ULSD) as fuel instead of marine light diesel, and to gather data on the implications of the fuel switch on ferry engine power output, fuel consumption and engine maintenance. We plan to launch the trial in the first half of 2009 and have the initial findings ready around early 2010. Subject to the findings, we will map out the way forward on how to encourage local ferry operators to switch to ULSD.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

13 March 2009

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2009-10
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB153

Question Serial No.

2442

Head : 44 Environmental
Protection Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme : (1) Waste

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : Under the Indicators by the Administration, the estimated number of marine dumping permits issued will be increased to 90 in 2009. Please advise:

- (a) There were only 76 marine dumping permits issued by the Administration in 2008-2009. Under the policy to safeguard a clean harbour, why would the Administration relax the application for marine dumping permit?
- (b) What is the average volume of waste dumped into the sea by each marine dumping permit holder during 2006-2008?
- (c) What are the penalties in average meted out to each offender of illegal dumping at sea during 2006-2008?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-kin

Reply :

- (a) In general, the number of application for permit under the Dumping at Sea Ordinance (DASO) is related to the amount of construction activities. With more infrastructure projects to be implemented in the year 2009, it is estimated that there will be an increase in the number of applications for permit under the DASO. In line with the spirit of the London Convention on control over dumping activities, the Director of Environmental Protection in processing any request for dumping under the DASO shall have regard to the need to protect the marine environment. Permits are only granted to those dumping applications for which disposal by marine dumping are necessary and the permits impose strict conditions on the permit holders to ensure that the dumping operations are carried out in an environmentally acceptable manner and at designated disposal facilities that are away from the harbour area.
- (b) In the year 2006 to 2008, the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) issued 259 marine dumping permits under the DASO with a total permitted quantities of 35.3 million cubic metres. On average, each permit holder was allowed to dump 0.14 million cubic metres at sea.
- (c) In the year 2006 to 2008, there were two convicted cases under the DASO. The average fine was \$12,500.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

13 March 2009

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

ENB154

Question Serial No.

0048

Head: 60 – Highways Department Subhead:

Programme: (1) Capital Projects

Controlling Officer: Director of Highways

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question: Concerning the retrofitting of noise barriers undertaken by the Highways Department, please inform this Committee of:

- (a) the latest progress and completion time table of the retrofitting of noise barriers on Kwun Tong Bypass, Yuen Shin Road, Tseung Kwan O Road and Tsing Tsuen Bridge at Tsing Yi and Tsuen Wan approaches; and
- (b) the design details, estimated expenditure and commencement dates of the retrofitting of noise barriers on Fanling Highway (Po Shek Wu Road to Wo Hing Road), Sha Tin Road, Tai Po Tai Wo Road, Tai Po Road (Sha Tin Section) and New Clear Water Bay Road.

Asked by: Hon. CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew

Reply:

(a) The progress of the retrofitting works which have commenced are set out in the following table:

| Road section | Commencement | Completed up to February 2009 | Completion (target) |
|---|---------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Kwun Tong Bypass | June 2008 | 28% | December 2010 |
| Yuen Shin Road | October 2008 | 14% | March 2010 |
| Tseung Kwan O Road | September 2007 | 74% | December 2009 |
| Tsing Tsuen Bridge at Tsing Yi and Tsuen Wan approaches | January 2008 | 53% | December 2010 |

(b) The details of the projects under detailed design are set out in the following table:

| Road section | Approximate length of noise barriers/enclosure | | Latest project estimate (\$ million, September 2008 prices) | Commencement (target) |
|---|--|------------------------|--|------------------------------|
| | Type | Length (meters) | | |
| Fanling Highway (Po Shek Wu Road to Wo Hing Road) | Cantilevered noise barriers: Vertical noise barriers: | 4,025 640 | 705.8 | Late 2009 |

| Road section | Approximate length of noise barriers/enclosure | | Latest project estimate (\$ million, September 2008 prices) | Commencement (target) |
|-------------------------------|--|-------------------|---|-----------------------|
| | Type | Length (meters) | | |
| Sha Tin Road | Full noise enclosure: Cantilevered noise barriers: Vertical noise barriers: | 160 230 160 | 359.0 | Late 2010 |
| Tai Po Tai Wo Road | Partial noise enclosure: Cantilevered noise barriers: Vertical noise barriers: | 140 170 70 | 174.4 | Late 2010 |
| Tai Po Road (Sha Tin Section) | Cantilevered noise barriers: Vertical noise barriers: | 1,600 800 | 482.1 | Late 2010 |
| New Clear Water Bay Road | Alternative mitigation options are being reviewed. | | 107.7 | Under review |

The above projects are subject to the approval of the Finance Committee.

Signature _____

Name in block letters WAI CHI SING

Post Title Director of Highways

Date 18 March 2009

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

ENB155

Question Serial No.

Head: 60 – Highways Department Subhead:

1203

Programme: (1) Capital Projects

Controlling Officer: Director of Highways

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question: Regarding the retrofitting of noise barriers projects to be carried out for the implementation of traffic noise mitigation measures, please provide details about:

- (a) the number of noise barriers projects scheduled for 2009 and the estimated expenditure involved; and
- (b) the level of noise to be reduced (in decibel) in general for buildings located nearest to the roadside upon erection of noise barriers; the number of cases in which no significant difference will be made; and the measures to be taken to enhance the effectiveness of the noise barriers.

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Hok-ming

Reply:

- (a) According to the latest programme, there will be seven retrofitting of noise barriers projects (for eight road sections in total) under construction by the Highways Department at a total estimated expenditure of \$311 million in the year of 2009. Among these seven projects, five have been approved by the Finance Committee (FC). For the remaining two, we plan to seek FC's approval within this Legislative Council session.
- (b) The effect of noise barriers depends on various factors, such as the barrier height, the relative location between the barrier and the noise sensitive receiver, topographical conditions and other site situations. Generally, noise barriers erected on roads can reduce the traffic noise at adjoining buildings by 1 to 15 dB(A) and similar noise reduction was achieved in past cases. To enhance the noise reduction effect, suitable types of noise barriers including vertical barriers, cantilevered barriers and noise enclosures, and using absorptive panels as appropriate would be adopted under different site situations.

Signature _____

Name in block letters WAI CHI SING

Post Title Director of Highways

Date 18 March 2009

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

ENB156

Question Serial No.

2714

Head: 100 – Marine Department

Subhead:

Programme: (2) Port Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Marine

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question: It is stated in the Brief Description that the Marine Department (MD) provides marine cleansing services. Please advise:

- (a) the cost per tonne of refuse collected before and after the outsourcing of MD's marine cleansing services in 2005 (i.e. 2004 to 2009);
- (b) the percentages of refuse collected by MD and the contractors respectively; and the cost of marine refuse collection by MD and the amount paid to the contractors in 2008;
- (c) the change in the remuneration of the workers responsible for marine cleansing before and after the outsourcing (i.e. 2004 to 2009).
- (d) the change in the establishment of the scavenging fleet before and after the outsourcing (i.e. 2004 to 2009).
- (e) the change in the value of the scavenging fleet before and after the outsourcing (i.e. 2004 to 2009).

Asked by: Hon. IP Wai-ming

Reply:

- (a) The cost per tonne of marine refuse collected in 2004-05 was about \$2,700. Since the implementation of the reformed outsourcing arrangement in July 2005, the cost per tonne has been gradually reduced and it was about \$1,800 in 2008.
- (b) Under the reformed outsourcing arrangement, marine refuse collection/cleansing services are entirely provided by contractors. MD is expected to pay about \$31.14 million to the contractors for the said services in 2008-09.
- (c) Before the implementation of the reformed outsourcing arrangement, the marine refuse collection/cleansing services were carried out by a work force comprising employees of the Government, contractors and sub-contractors. The contracts did not specify the standard remuneration for the contractors' workers. After implementing the reformed outsourcing arrangement, it is specified in the contracts a minimum wage, on the basis of eight working hours per day and 26 working days per month, for the workers.
- (d) Before the implementation of the reformed outsourcing arrangement, the scavenging fleet comprised 68 scavenging vessels provided by the contractors and seven government vessels. After implementing the reformed outsourcing arrangement, the contractors provide a fleet of about 70 scavenging vessels including six government vessels chartered to the contractors. The adjustment in fleet size was made as a result of the consolidation of the services and enhanced efficiency under the reformed arrangement.
- (e) Since most of the vessels are provided by the contractors, we do not have the record for the value of those vessels.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ **ROGER TUPPER**

Post Title _____ **Director of Marine**

Date _____ **17 March 2009**

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

ENB157

Question Serial No.

0480

Head: 100 – Marine Department

Subhead:

Programme: (2) Port Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Marine

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question: According to the Marine Department, the amounts of refuse collected from ships and floating refuse collected in 2009 are estimated to be more than that collected in 2008 or 2007. Please advise:

- (a) the reason(s) for that;
- (b) what measure(s) will be taken to reduce refuse at sea; and
- (c) is there any need to allocate more manpower or resources for tackling the increased amount of refuse at sea?

Asked by: Hon. LAM Kin-fung, Jeffrey

Reply:

- (a) The predominant source of floating refuse is from the land. As a result of significant rainfall events during 2008 which carried additional refuse into the sea, the quantity of refuse collected increased by 5.8% as compared with 2007. The estimated increase for 2009 to 13 400 tonnes is based on the average trend increase of 3.8%. In respect of the refuse collected from ships in 2009, we expect it will be more or less the same as 2008 and 2007, at 2 400 tonnes.
- (b) We will continue to adopt a three-prong approach to reduce marine refuse:
 - (i) collecting floating refuse through our contractors;
 - (ii) prosecuting offenders of marine littering; and
 - (iii) organising educational campaigns.

On (i), our contractors will collect refuse from ships and floating refuse at sea seven days a week by a fleet of about 70 scavenging vessels. Our staff will closely monitor the work of contractors to ensure that their performance is meeting the requirement.

On (ii) and (iii), our staff will continue to patrol seafronts and “black spots” and carry out prosecution against marine littering as part of their normal duties. We will work with other government departments to clean up beaches and coastlines. We will also collaborate with private sector in organising promotional activities to enhance the public awareness of keeping Hong Kong waters clean.

- (c) We will continue to collect and scavenge refuse with our existing allocated resources. No additional resources or manpower is required at this stage.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ROGER TUPPER

Post Title _____

Director of Marine

Date _____

16 March 2009

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2009-10
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB158

Question Serial No.

0376

Head : 137 Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title):
 Environment Bureau

Programme : (2) Power

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : What is the amount of expenditure involved for the studies on the long-term market structure for the electricity market? What are the details of the concerned studies?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Hak-kan

Reply :

The consultancy study on the long-term market structure for the electricity market will cost around \$2.8 million. The engaged consultant will look into options of a new market mechanism and the associated regulatory framework for the post-2018 market, with due regard to the unique situation of Hong Kong.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment

Date _____

12 March 2009

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2009-10
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB159

Question Serial No.

0377

Head : 137 Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title):
Environment Bureau

Programme : (2) Power

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : What are the criteria for evaluating the effectiveness of the first phase of the mandatory Energy Efficiency Labelling Scheme? Will additional resources be allocated for promoting the Scheme to the public when rolling out its second phase?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Hak-kan

Reply :

After the full implementation of the first phase of the mandatory Energy Efficiency Labelling Scheme, which will commence on 9 November 2009, we will evaluate and review its results taking into account its energy saving achievement and response from the trade and the public.

The Government has been carrying out a series of publicity activities to promote the scheme to the public and the trades, including a launching ceremony, announcements in radio and Government website, distribution of pamphlets and posters, exhibitions, school visits and seminars for trades etc. The Government will continue to its promotional efforts when the second phase of the scheme rolls out.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ **ANISSA WONG** _____

Post Title _____ **Permanent Secretary for the Environment** _____

Date _____ **12 March 2009** _____

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2009-10
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB160

Question Serial No.

0378

Head : 137 Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title):
Environment Bureau

Programme : (2) Power

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : Two funding schemes will be implemented under the Environment and Conservation Fund to provide partial subsidy to building owners to conduct energy-cum-carbon audits and energy efficiency improvement projects. What is the expenditure involved? What are the details of the funding schemes? How many owners are expected to be benefitted from the schemes?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Hak-kan

Reply :

The Environment and Conservation Fund (ECF) has agreed to reserve \$150 million and \$300 million to partially subsidise building owners to conduct energy-cum-carbon audits (ECAs) and energy efficient projects (EEPs) respectively.

The objective of the ECA funding scheme is to encourage building owners to carry out such audits, with a view to systematically reviewing the use of energy and quantifying the greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions associated with their buildings, and to identify opportunities for enhancements of energy efficiency and reductions in the level of GHG. The scheme will cover ECAs to be carried out in communal areas of residential, commercial and industrial buildings. Owners' corporations, owners' organizations or residents' organizations of these buildings will be eligible to apply.

The objective of the EEP funding scheme is to encourage building owners to carry out alteration, addition or improvement works to upgrade the energy efficiency performance of building services installations for communal use in residential, commercial or industrial buildings. Owners' corporations of these buildings will be eligible to apply. We expect that the two schemes will together finance over 1 600 projects.

The Electrical and Mechanical Services Trading Fund (EMSTF) has been entrusted to provide professional support to the operation of the two funding schemes.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment

Date _____

12 March 2009

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2009-10
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB161

Question Serial No.

0379

Head : 137 Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title):
 Environment Bureau

Programme : (2) Power

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : What are the details of the promotion of environmental protection and energy conservation in government buildings through two energy efficiency demonstration projects? How many government buildings will be so involved? What are the estimated expenditures to be saved?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Hak-kan

Reply :

The Government is committed to promoting environmental protection and energy conservation in government buildings. To this end, we have identified two demonstration projects for demonstrating state-of-the-art energy efficient designs and technologies, i.e.:

- (a) a secondary school project near Choi Wan Road and Jordan Valley, Kwun Tong; and
- (b) the Kai Tak Government Offices.

The Architectural Services Department is now planning for the energy efficient designs and technologies to be adopted in the two demonstration projects. Subject to the actual design of the projects, it is estimated that an energy saving of around 10% to 25% could be achieved when compared with the average energy consumption of the same building type.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment

Date _____

12 March 2009

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2009-10
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB162

Question Serial No.

0380

Head : 137 Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title):
 Environment Bureau

Programme : (2) Power

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : Regarding the studies on the phasing out of incandescent light bulbs and the issue of energy wastage of external lighting, what is the expenditure involved? What are the details of the studies?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Hak-kan

Reply :

The consultancy studies on the phasing out of incandescent light bulbs will cover relevant international practices, assessment on viable technology to replace incandescent light bulbs and the availability of replacements. A survey on the local use of incandescent light bulbs will also be conducted. The studies will cost about \$1.2 million.

The consultancy studies on the issue of energy wastage of external lighting will cover issues including overseas practices in guiding and regulating external lighting and survey on the impacts of external lighting in Hong Kong. It is estimated that the studies will cost about \$4 million.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment

Date _____

12 March 2009

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2009-10
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB163

Question Serial No.

0381

Head : 137 Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title):
 Environment Bureau

Programme : (3) Sustainable Development

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : What are the details of the training programmes provided by the Administration for departments on the sustainable development principles and the sustainability assessment system? What are the expenditures incurred? Is additional manpower required to cope with the work? Has the Administration considered giving priority to certain departments or grades for joining the training programmes?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Hak-kan

Reply :

The Sustainable Development Division has been regularly organising training programmes for government staff. The objectives of the training programmes are to strengthen the concept and application of sustainable development within the Government and to upgrade general capability in applying the sustainability assessment system. So far, we have organised computer training and workshops on sustainability concepts and sustainability assessment for more than 3 000 government staff.

In 2009–10, the amount of expenditure involved in training programmes is estimated to be about \$0.44 million. The Division strives to deliver the programmes within existing manpower. Priority will be given to those officers who are, or will likely be, involved in the formulation of major work projects or policy proposals and the conduct of sustainability assessments thereof.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment

Date _____

12 March 2009

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2009-10
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB165

Question Serial No.

0493

Head : 137 Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title):
 Environment Bureau

Programme : (2) Power

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : In 2009-10, the Environment Bureau will propose amendments to the Energy Efficiency (Labelling of Products) Ordinance for rolling out the second phase of the Scheme. Please advise the details and the relevant expenditures of the second phase of the Scheme.

Asked by : Hon. EU Yuet-mee, Audrey

Reply :

Following the introduction of the first phase of the mandatory energy efficiency labelling scheme (EELS) under the Energy Efficiency (Labelling of Products) Ordinance, we have pledged in the 2008-09 Policy Address to propose amendments to the Ordinance for the second phase of the scheme. In this connection, the Government is planning for the coverage of the second phase and is consulting relevant trades and stakeholders. It is currently premature to estimate the expenditures of the second phase of the Scheme.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ **ANISSA WONG** _____

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for the Environment _____

Date _____ 11 March 2009 _____

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2009-10
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB166

Question Serial No.

0494

Head : 137 Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title):
 Environment Bureau

Programme : (2) Power

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : Regarding the consultancy study on the issue of energy wastage of external lighting, please advise the expenditure involved, the scope of the study, the expected completion date and the details of public participation.

Asked by : Hon. EU Yuet-mee, Audrey

Reply :

The consultancy studies on the issue of energy wastage of external lighting will cover issues including overseas practices in guiding and regulating external lighting and survey on the impacts of external lighting in Hong Kong. Views from stakeholder groups and relevant organizations will be collected. It is estimated that the studies will cost about \$4 million and will be completed by the end of 2009.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment

Date _____

12 March 2009

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2009-10
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB167

Question Serial No.

2290

Head : 137 Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title):
 Environment Bureau

Programme : (1) Director of Bureau's Office

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : Please provide details of the one new post to be created during 2009-10, including its grade, annual salary and duties.

Asked by : Hon. FANG Kang, Vincent

Reply :

In 2009-10, one Senior Executive Officer (SEO) post will be created under Head 137 – Environment Bureau to provide administrative support to the Principal Official's Office (POO). An SEO was first posted to the POO of the then Environment, Transport and Works Bureau in December 2005 and the arrangement was established through internal re-deployment from the Environmental Protection Department (EPD). After the reorganization of Government Secretariat on 1 July 2007, the SEO was transferred to the Environment Bureau. The post to be created is to formally establish the SEO post in the POO and the original SEO post will be transferred back to EPD. The annual salary of the post is \$760,020.

The SEO is responsible for providing general administrative support to the POO, including supervision of supporting staff, logistical arrangement of public functions and duty visits of staff in the POO, and handling of public enquiries and complaints.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment

Date _____

11 March 2009

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2009-10
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB168

Question Serial No.

2291

Head : 137 Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title):
 Environment Bureau

Programme : (1) Director of Bureau's Office

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : The Environment Bureau has created the posts of one Under Secretary and one Political Assistant even though its policy areas are less diversified comparing to those of other policy bureaux. Please state the demarcation of duties between the Under Secretary and the Secretary, and that among the Political Assistant, the existing Administrative Assistant and the Press Secretary.

Asked by : Hon. FANG Kang, Vincent

Reply :

There is clear delineation of duties between politically appointed officials and civil servants. They have to complement each other to serve the HKSAR Government.

The Under Secretary and Political Assistant are politically appointed officials. In short, the Under Secretary is responsible principally for assisting the Secretary in undertaking the full range of political work, including the handling of Legislative Council business, and deputising for the Secretary during the latter's temporary absence. The Political Assistant is responsible principally for providing political support and input to the Secretary and the Under Secretary, and conducting the necessary political liaison at the instruction of the Secretary and the Under Secretary, including the liaison with the media and various stakeholders.

As regards the Administrative Assistant and Press Secretary, these are civil service positions. In short, the Administrative Assistant is responsible for matters such as providing administrative support to the Secretary; coordinating submissions to the Secretary; planning the Secretary's programme of official visits and duty trips; planning meetings on various subjects, preparing briefs, and servicing meetings chaired by the Secretary. The Press Secretary is responsible for matters such as gauging media and community views and opinions on issues under the Secretary's policy schedules; handling media enquiries relating to the Secretary, and acting as his spokesman; and overseeing the press arrangements for the Secretary.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment

Date _____

16 March 2009

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2009-10
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB169

Question Serial No.

0107

Head : 137 Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title):
 Environment Bureau

Programme : (1) Director of Bureau's Office

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : Regarding the Analysis of Financial and Staffing Provision, one post will be created in 2009-10 under Programme (1). Will the Administration inform this Council of the details of the newly created post?

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply :

In 2009-10, one Senior Executive Officer (SEO) post will be created under Head 137 – Environment Bureau to provide administrative support to the Principal Official's Office (POO). An SEO was first posted to the POO of the then Environment, Transport and Works Bureau in December 2005 and the arrangement was established through internal re-deployment from the Environmental Protection Department (EPD). After the reorganization of Government Secretariat on 1 July 2007, the SEO was transferred to the Environment Bureau. The post to be created is to formally establish the SEO post in the POO and the original SEO post will be transferred back to EPD.

The SEO is responsible for providing general administrative support to the POO, including supervision of supporting staff, logistical arrangement of public functions and duty visits of staff in the POO, and handling of public enquiries and complaints.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment

Date _____

11 March 2009

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2009-10
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB170

Question Serial No.

0108

Head : 137 Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title):
Environment Bureau

Programme : (2) Power

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : In Matters Requiring Special Attention, the Environment Bureau will conduct studies on the long-term market structure for the electricity market. Would the Administration advise the latest development of the studies, the expenditure and manpower involved, as well as the expected date of completion?

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply :

The Environment Bureau has engaged a consultant to conduct studies on the long-term market structure for the electricity market, which commenced in end January 2009. The consultancy study will cost around \$2.8 million, and the manpower involved will be absorbed by existing resources. It is expected that the consultancy study will be completed by the end of 2009.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ **ANISSA WONG**

Post Title _____ **Permanent Secretary for the Environment**

Date _____ **12 March 2009**

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2009-10
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB171

Question Serial No.

0109

Head : 137 Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title):
 Environment Bureau

Programme : (2) Power

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : In Matters Requiring Special Attention, the Environment Bureau will launch two funding schemes to partially subsidise building owners to carry out energy-cum-carbon audits and energy efficiency projects. Will the Administration inform this Committee of the details of the two funding schemes, the expenditure and manpower resources involved as well as the expected number of buildings and owners to be benefited?

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply :

The Environment and Conservation Fund (ECF) has agreed to reserve \$150 million and \$300 million to partially subsidise building owners to conduct energy-cum-carbon audits (ECAs) and energy efficient projects (EEPs) respectively.

The objective of the ECA funding scheme is to encourage building owners to carry out such audits, with a view to systematically reviewing the use of energy and quantifying the greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions associated with their buildings, and to identify opportunities for enhancements of energy efficiency and reductions in the level of GHG. The scheme will cover ECAs to be carried out in communal areas of residential, commercial and industrial buildings. Owners' corporations, owners' organizations or residents' organizations of these buildings will be eligible to apply.

The objective of the EEP funding scheme is to encourage building owners to carry out alteration, addition or improvement works to upgrade the energy efficiency performance of building services installations for communal use in residential, commercial or industrial buildings. Owners' corporations of these buildings will be eligible to apply. We expect that the two schemes will together finance over 1,600 projects.

The Electrical and Mechanical Services Trading Fund (EMSTF) has been entrusted to provide professional support to the operation of the two funding schemes. For this purpose, EMSTF has established a project team of seven officers.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment

Date _____

12 March 2009

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2009-10
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB172

Question Serial No.

0110

Head : 137 Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title):
Environment Bureau

Programme : (3) Sustainable Development

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : The "Matters Requiring Special Attention" item mentions that the Sustainable Development Division will implement a number of programmes, including the School Outreach Programme, Community Outreach Programme, sustainable development (SD) Conference and a wall painting design competition related to sustainable development. Could the Administration advise what are the details of these programmes and the expenditures involved?

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply :

The Council for Sustainable Development (SDC) implements education and publicity initiatives to promote SD to various sectors of the community, with the collaboration of our stakeholder organisations. Details of the education and publicity activities/programmes are set out below.

School Outreach Programme (SOP)

The SOP is an on-going educational initiative of the SDC to promote SD in the school community. It takes place in the form of school talks during which there will be an introduction to and an interactive dialogue on the SD concept, concrete examples with reference to current global and local issues, and discussions on how to put SD principles into practice in daily lives. Currently, nine SD stakeholder partners are involved in delivering the school talks. Within the financial year of 2009-2010, we estimate about 60 schools will be participating.

Community Outreach Programme (COP)

The COP is the SDC's on-going initiative to promote SD in local communities. Relevant recipients of the SD Fund and District Council would be invited to jointly host outreach events, usually in the form of an introductory talk, an interactive sharing session to exchange experiences in implementing programmes to promote SD and highlight the impact brought by the SD Fund projects to the local community and a demonstration session of project activity e.g. community or eco-tour. Within this financial year, we plan to organize three community outreach events.

SD Conference

The SDC will hold a SD Conference to share the good SD practices of the business sector. We target to have participants from Government bureaux and departments, large corporations and small and medium enterprises and non-government organisations in Hong Kong.

Wall Painting Design Competition

The SDC will launch a wall painting design competition open to students/young people in Hong Kong. Selected winning entries will be painted on the two walls alongside the entrance plaza of the Centre for Youth Development at Chai Wan. A prize giving ceremony is tentatively scheduled for the end of 2009.

The amount of departmental expenditure involved in the above programmes is estimated to be about \$1.19 million in 2009-2010.

| | |
|-----------------------|---|
| Signature | _____ |
| Name in block letters | ANISSA WONG |
| Post Title | Permanent Secretary for the Environment |
| Date | 12 March 2009 |

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2009-10
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB173

Question Serial No.

0111

Head : 137 Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title):
 Environment Bureau

Programme : (2) Power

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : In his Budget Speech, the Financial Secretary mentioned that the Administration established the Hong Kong Automotive Parts and Accessory Systems R&D Centre (APAS) in 2006. Through the research efforts of local universities, some local companies have started to produce electric vehicles for sale in the UK market. Would the Administration advise the expenditure and the outcome of research and development of the APAS since its establishment? And why only choose to develop the market of electric vehicles in UK but not in Hong Kong?

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply :

Up to 5 March 2009, the APAS has undertaken 25 R&D projects with a total project cost of \$81.77 million. Seven of these 25 projects are related to electric vehicles. Although only one of these seven projects has been completed, the APAS has already filed two patent applications based on the R&D results delivered so far. We expect further patents to be filed after more projects are completed, and the APAS will then proceed to promoting further development of the R&D results including technology transfer and commercialisation. The strategies on market development are based on commercial decisions.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment

Date _____

19 March 2009

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2009-10
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB174

Question Serial No.

0112

Head : 137 Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title):
 Environment Bureau

Programme : (2) Power

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : In his Budget Speech, the Financial Secretary mentioned that the Government would study the feasibility of jointly promoting electric vehicles with manufacturers, and would be actively involved in vehicle tests conducted in Hong Kong with a view to introducing electric vehicles into our market early. The Government would also consider introducing such vehicles into government fleet when the related technology has matured and the vehicles are available on the market. Would the Administration advise the proportions of resources provided by the Government and manufacturers respectively and the work concerned? And what criteria will be used by the Government to assess when is the time to introduce such vehicles?

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply :

The Government is interested to give different types of electric vehicles a trial run, so long as they are made available and fulfill the requisite requirements including safety, and performance reliability. Detailed arrangements of trial runs are being sorted out with various vehicle manufacturers. The Government will consider introducing electric vehicles into its fleet when the related technology has matured and the vehicles are available on the market.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment

Date _____

16 March 2009

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2009-10
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB175

Question Serial No.

0113

Head : 137 Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title):
 Environment Bureau

Programme : (2) Power

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : In his Budget Speech, the Financial Secretary mentioned that he would lead a steering committee to study the wider use of electric vehicles in Hong Kong. What is the specific composition of this steering committee? What are the overall arrangement of the study and its schedule, and what are the expenditure and manpower involved?

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply :

A steering committee will be set up to make recommendations on strategy and specific measures to promote the use of electric vehicles in Hong Kong. The steering committee will be chaired by the Financial Secretary and comprise member from relevant sectors. The steering committee, once established, will consider how best to take forward the various related tasks.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ **ANISSA WONG** _____

Post Title _____ **Permanent Secretary for the Environment** _____

Date _____ **16 March 2009** _____

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2009-10
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB176

Question Serial No.

0114

Head : 137 Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title):
Environment Bureau

Programme : (2) Power

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : It is stated in the Budget Speech of the Financial Secretary that the Administration will promote a 'green economy' by promoting investments and economic activities that protect environment and save energy. Please state in what ways will the Administration promote investments and economic activities that protect environment and save energy. What are the specific measures? How many resources are expected to be invested for the 'green economy'?

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply :

Promoting a "green economy" will enhance Hong Kong's overall competitiveness as well as making it a more livable city. We have outlined in this year's Budget Speech the following plans to promote green economy.

Hong Kong/Guangdong Co-operation in Environmental Protection

The Administration will co-operate with the Guangdong Provincial Government to take forward the concept of transforming the Pearl River Delta region into a green and quality living area. Business opportunities will arise in our efforts to further develop high-tech recycling industries, and enterprises will also be encouraged to adopt cleaner production technologies for energy saving and emission reduction. The enhanced co-operation between energy enterprises of the two places under the Memorandum of Understanding on energy co-operation will also give rise to new investment and economic collaboration.

Electric Vehicles

Electric vehicles are more energy efficient and emit no exhaust gas. Promoting the use of electric vehicles will create additional business opportunities. The Government will study the feasibility of jointly promoting electric vehicles with manufacturers, and will be actively involved in vehicle tests conducted in Hong Kong. We will consider introducing such vehicles into government fleet when the related technology has matured and the vehicles are available on the market. We will also promote the setting up of vehicle battery charging facilities in Hong Kong.

Green Buildings

The Administration will allocate about \$450 million to carry out minor works in government buildings in the next two years to install energy efficient lighting systems, retrofit plumbing with water saving devices and incorporate energy efficient features in air-conditioning, elevator and escalator systems. Furthermore, the Administration will allocate an additional \$130 million non-recurrent funding to carry out works to enhance energy efficiency of government buildings and public facilities.

The Environment and Conservation Fund has agreed to reserve \$450 million to partially subsidise private building owners to conduct energy-cum-carbon audits and energy efficient improvement projects. We expect to subsidise over 1 600 projects. This will create business opportunities for related sectors in particular the electrical, mechanical, building services and environmental engineering sectors.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ANISSA WONG

Post Title Permanent Secretary for the Environment

Date 18 March 2009

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2009-10
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB177

Question Serial No.

1336

Head : 137 Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title):
 Environment Bureau

Programme : (2) Power

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : In his budget speech (paragraph 79), the Financial Secretary mentioned that the Government will allocate about \$450 million to carry out works in government buildings in 2009 and 2010 to install energy efficient lighting systems, retrofit plumbing with water saving devices and incorporate energy efficient features in air-conditioning, elevator and escalator systems. Please advise what criteria the Government has employed to calculate the expenditures involved; will other public organizations be required to implement similar measures; and will any incentives be provided to encourage private buildings to adopt these measures?

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply :

The Administration will allocate about \$450 million to carry out minor works in government buildings in the next two years to promote green buildings contributing to achieving sustainable development. Projects to be funded include:

- (a) installation and retrofitting energy efficient electrical and mechanical facilities for various government departments;
- (b) provision of green roofs in 40 government buildings;
- (c) retrofitting plumbing with water saving devices in government buildings and schools; and
- (d) refurbishment of building services installations in 100 government buildings to incorporate energy efficient features in lighting systems, lifts and escalators, air-conditioning systems and power supply systems.

The project cost is estimated based on projects of similar nature taking due account of the prevailing market rates. In this regard, we estimate that the total cost of these projects will be about \$450 million, and the 2009-10 expenditure will be about \$260 million. A detailed account of these projects was submitted to and approved by Public Works Sub-committee (PWSC) on 11 February 2009 (ref. PWSC(2008-09)68). Finance Committee is scheduled to consider the recommendation of PWSC on 24 April 2009.

In addition, the Administration will allocate an additional \$130 million non-recurrent funding to carry out works to enhance energy efficiency of government buildings and public facilities. As for private buildings, the Environment and Conservation Fund has agreed to allocate \$150 million and \$300 million, to subsidize private building owners to conduct energy-cum-carbon audits and energy efficient improvement projects respectively.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment

Date _____

17 March 2009

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2009-10
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB178

Question Serial No.

1815

Head : 137 Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title):
 Environment Bureau

Programme : (2) Power

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : In his Budget Speech (paragraph 78), the Financial Secretary mentioned that the Administration would examine the feasibility of providing re-charging facilities in government multi-storey car parks and explore ways of encouraging the business sector, including property developers and private car park operators, to set up such facilities. Please advise on the expenditure and manpower involved in the above study. Initially, what incentives will be considered by the Government to encourage property developers and private car park operators to provide similar facilities?

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply :

A steering committee to be chaired by the Financial Secretary will be set up to make recommendations on strategy and specific measures to promote the use of electric vehicles in Hong Kong. The steering committee, once established, will consider how best to take forward the various related tasks.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ **ANISSA WONG** _____

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for the Environment _____

Date _____ 12 March 2009 _____

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2009-10
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB179

Question Serial No.

0269

Head : 137 Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title):
Environment Bureau

Programme : (3) Sustainable Development

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : In Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2009-10 (para. 10), the Sustainable Development Division will provide training programmes for bureaux and departments on the Sustainable Development Principles and the Sustainability Assessment System. Please advise the details of training and the expenditure involved.

Asked by : Hon. HO Chung-tai, Raymond

Reply :

The Sustainable Development Division has been regularly organising training programmes for government staff. The objectives of the training programmes are to strengthen the concept and application of sustainable development within the Government and to upgrade general capability in applying the sustainability assessment system. So far, we have organised computer training and workshops on sustainability concepts and sustainability assessment for more than 3 000 government staff.

In 2009-10, the amount of expenditure involved in training programmes is estimated to be about \$0.44 million.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment

Date _____

12 March 2009

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2009-10
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
 INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB180

Question Serial No.

2258

Head : 137 Government Secretariat:
 Environment Bureau

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : Regarding the studies entrusted to consultants for the purposes of formulating and assessing policies (if any), please provide the relevant information in the following format:

- (1) For the consultancy studies in the past three years, i.e. from 2006-07 to 2008-09, please provide the relevant information in the following table:

| Name of Consultant (if any) | Content and Purpose | Consultancy Fees (\$) | Progress of Studies (under planning / in progress / completed) | The follow-ups taken by the Administration on the study reports and their progress (if any) | If completed, have they been released to the public? If yes, through which channels? If no, what are the reasons? |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|--|---|---|
| | | | | | |

- (2) Is there any project that will reserve funds for conducting consultancy studies in 2009-10? If yes, please provide information as follows:

| Name of Consultant (if any) | Content and Purpose | Consultancy Fees (\$) | Progress of Studies (under planning / in progress / completed) | Will the studies be released to the public if they are expected to be completed in this financial year? If yes, through which channels? If no, what are the reasons? |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|--|--|
| | | | | |

Asked by : Hon. HO Sau-lan, Cyd

Reply :

Please refer to the attachment.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ANISSA WONG

Post Title Permanent Secretary for the Environment

Date 18 March 2009

(1) Consultancy Studies for the purposes of formulating and assessing policies in 2006-07:

| Name of Consultant (if any) | Content and Purpose | Consultancy Fees (\$) | Progress of Studies (under planning / in progress / completed) | The follow-ups taken by the Administration on the study reports and their progress (if any) | If completed, have they been released to the public? If yes, through which channels? If no, what are the reasons? |
|--|---|------------------------------|---|--|---|
| ERM-Hong Kong, Ltd. | To conduct a biennial habitat mapping study for the computer-aided sustainability evaluation tool | 0.6 million | Completed | The information gathered from the consultancy was used to update the habitat information in the computer-aided sustainability evaluation tool. | The final report of the habitat mapping study was released to the public through the Sustainable Development Division's website. |
| Public Policy Research Institute (PPRI) of the Polytechnic University of Hong Kong | To conduct independent analysis of public views received during the Council for Sustainable Development (SDC)'s engagement process on Population Policy | 0.69 million | Completed | The SDC released a report on the engagement process in June 2007, which put forward recommendations for a sustainable population policy for Hong Kong. The Administration subsequently released its response in December 2007, and announced that it had accepted all the principles and targets put forward by the SDC in the report. | Both the PPRI's and the SDC's reports have been uploaded on the SDC's website at www.susdev.org.hk . |
| Department of Mechanical Engineering, The University of Hong Kong | Study on Enhanced Promotion of Building Energy Codes in Hong Kong | 0.6 million | Completed | The Administration launched a public consultation on the proposed mandatory implementation of the Building Energy Codes in end 2007. | The Development Report of the study has been uploaded to the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department website. |

Consultancy Studies for the purposes of formulating and assessing policies in 2007-08:

| Name of Consultant (if any) | Content and Purpose | Consultancy Fees (\$) | Progress of Studies (under planning / in progress / completed) | The follow-ups taken by the Administration on the study reports and their progress (if any) | If completed, have they been released to the public? If yes, through which channels? If no, what are the reasons? |
|---|--|------------------------------|---|---|---|
| Social Sciences Research Centre (SSRC) of the University of Hong Kong | To conduct independent analysis of public views received during SDC's engagement process on Better Air Quality | 0.38 million | Completed | <p>In February 2008, the SDC submitted to the Administration its report on the engagement process on Better Air Quality with recommendations on the way forward, together with the SSRC's report analysing the public views.</p> <p>In October 2008, the Administration released its response to the SDC's Report on the Better Air Quality Engagement Process.</p> | Both the SSRC's and the SDC's reports have been uploaded on the SDC's website at www.susdev.org.hk . |

Consultancy Studies for the purposes of formulating and assessing policies in 2008-09:

| Name of Consultant (if any) | Content and Purpose | Consultancy Fees (\$) | Progress of Studies (under planning / in progress / completed) | The follow-ups taken by the Administration on the study reports and their progress (if any) | If completed, have they been released to the public? If yes, through which channels? If no, what are the reasons? |
|--|--|------------------------------|---|---|---|
| ERM-Hong Kong, Ltd. | To conduct a biennial habitat mapping study for the computer-aided sustainability evaluation tool | 1.252 million | In progress | The reports submitted by the consultant are being scrutinized. | After completion, the final report of the habitat mapping study will be released to the public through the SDD's website. |
| Mott MacDonald Hong Kong Limited | To look into options of a new market mechanism and the associated regulatory framework for the post-2018 electricity market, with due regard to the unique situation of Hong Kong. | 2.8 million | In progress | The study commenced in end January 2009, and is expected to be completed by the end of 2009. | Relevant arrangements would be worked out upon the completion of the study. |
| ERM-Hong Kong, Limited | Business impact assessment on the mandatory implementation of the Building Energy Codes | 0.99 million | In progress | The Administration will take into account findings of the study in preparing the legislative proposal for the mandatory implementation of the Building Energy Codes | Relevant arrangements would be worked out upon the completion of the study. |
| Hong Kong Productivity Council and MVA Hong Kong Limited | To conduct a study on the phasing out of incandescent light bulbs | 1.2 million | In progress | The study will be completed by the end of 2009. | Relevant arrangements would be worked out upon the completion of the study. |

(2) Consultancy Studies for the purposes of formulating and assessing policies in 2009-10:

| Name of Consultant (if any) | Content and Purpose | Consultancy Fees (\$) | Progress of Studies (under planning / in progress / completed) | Will the studies be released to the public if they are expected to be completed in this financial year? If yes, through which channels? If no, what are the reasons? |
|--|---|------------------------------|---|---|
| Public Policy Research Institute (PPRI) of the Polytechnic University of Hong Kong | To conduct independent analysis of public views received during the SDC's engagement process on Fostering a Quality and Sustainable Built Environment | 1.062 million | In progress | Both the PPRI's and the SDC's reports will be uploaded on the SDC's website at www.susdev.org.hk . |
| To be appointed | To study the issue of energy wastage of external lighting in Hong Kong, covering issues such as overseas practices in guiding and regulating external lighting and survey on the impacts of external lighting in Hong Kong. | 4 million (estimated) | Under planning | Relevant arrangements would be worked out upon the completion of the study. |
| To be appointed | To conduct a study on the tariff scheme for the District Cooling System at the Kai Tak Development. | 1 million (estimated) | Under planning | Relevant arrangements would be worked out upon the completion of the study. |

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2009-10
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB181

Question Serial No.

2656

Head : 137 Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title):
Environment Bureau

Programme : (3) Sustainable Development

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : As regards the operation of the Sustainable Development (SD) Fund, please advise:

- (a) The number of projects approved and their descriptions in 2008-09 (by projects);
- (b) Are there any mechanisms to ensure that the operation of the SD Fund will not be abused? If yes, what are the details?

Asked by : Hon. KAM Nai-wai

Reply :

- (a) A total of eight projects have been awarded grants from the SD Fund in 2008-09. For details of the eight approved projects, please refer to the **Annex**.
- (b) There is a mechanism to ensure proper use of the SD Fund by the grantees. Applicants are required to provide a full, itemized budget for their proposed projects in their application forms. Pricing standards setting out the limits for the budget cost of certain items of equipment and furniture, and appropriate salaries for project staff are provided for applicants' reference.

For approved projects, payment of grants to cover the expenditure incurred by the project is made on reimbursement and quarterly basis throughout the project period, subject to submission of expenditure claims by the grantee. Grantees are requested to provide supporting document, such as provision of original receipt, to substantiate their claims for the project expenditure. The SD Fund Secretariat will vet the amount and type of each expenditure claim against the relevant item of the project cost as specified in the approved budget to ensure its eligibility for reimbursement. Besides, grantees should ensure that the purchase of goods and services in relation to their projects are made on a competitive basis by obtaining quotations from a number of suppliers to ensure openness and value for money. Grantees are provided with clear guidelines for the requirements of quotations.

Besides, for projects with a grant of more than \$250,000, grantees are required to submit annual audited accounts which contain the Auditors' Report, Balance Sheet, Income and Expenditure Statement, Cash Flow Statement and Notes to Accounts. Such accounts should be audited by a certified public accountant. For projects with a grant of less than \$250,000, grantees are required to submit an audited statement.

In addition, we have Project Officers to monitor the progress of the projects and to ensure that they are implemented in the manner and within the time frame as stipulated in their approved proposals. Upon satisfactory progress of the projects, grantees will then be reimbursed with the expenditure incurred for the specific use as stated in the approved budget.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for the Environment

Date _____ 18 March 2009

| No. | Title of Project | Description of Project |
|-----|---|---|
| 1 | Green Life Movement@ South Kwai Chung | The project aims to promote healthy community, raise the public awareness of environmental protection and foster capacity building by involving the stakeholders in Kwai Chung district. |
| 2 | Education for Sustainable Development in Junior Secondary Education | The project aims to design and develop web-based teaching and learning resources to support the school-based curriculum development framework for SD education at junior secondary level. |
| 3 | Wanchai College for Community Innovation | The project aims to engage community stakeholders in various activities on two community issues: Cross Street/Tai Yuen Street Open Market and Overall Activation of Conservation in Wan Chai. |
| 4 | When Villages Meet Cities: A Sustainable Journey | The project aims at identifying a unique product from each village selected in the Yuen Long and Tuen Mun districts with a view to promoting the traditional and cultural characteristics of the product to city dwellers as well as boosting the local economy. |
| 5 | Green and Sustainable Community Project in the Rural Tsuen Wan | The project aims to identify, record and promote sustainable lifestyle, cultural heritage and social assets in rural villages of Tsuen Wan. |
| 6 | Enhanced Urban Green Project | The project aims to further encourage community practice of the SD principles with a view to nurturing community leaders, setting up a framework for the sustainable operation of organic gardening, as well as enhancing residents' sense of belonging through a series of programmes and activities in the three established community gardens. |
| 7 | Local Agenda 21 and SD Educational Programme and Activities in Tai Kok Tsui | The project aims to foster harmonious integration of residents from the new and old areas of Tai Kok Tsui, capacity building for women and youth groups as well as individual shop operators in old areas of the Yau Tsim Mong district. |
| 8 | Dim It: A Project on the Best Use of Light Resources | The project aims to raise awareness of the community stakeholders on the excessive use of outdoor lighting and its social and environmental impacts. |

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2009-10
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB182

Question Serial No.

1154

Head : 137 Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title):
Environment Bureau

Programme : (3) Sustainable Development

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : The revised estimate for 2008-09 is lower than the original estimate by as much as 28.5 %. Please state the reasons in detail.

Asked by : Hon. LAU Sau-shing, Patrick

Reply :

The revised estimate in 2008-09 is 28.5% less than the original estimate mainly due to the following reasons -

- (a) The Council for Sustainable Development (SDC) had needed more time in considering and deciding on the subject of its next engagement process. With due deliberation, the SDC has decided that the new engagement process, on fostering a quality and sustainable built environment, would be launched in mid 2009. The decrease in the revised estimate against the original estimate reflects that most of the expenditure on implementing the engagement process will be incurred in 2009-10.
- (b) Payment of grants under the Sustainable Development Fund is made on reimbursement basis subject to submission of expenditure claims by Fund recipients. In 2008-09, the expenditure claims submitted by Fund recipients are less than the projected cash flow.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment

Date _____

12 March 2009

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2009-10
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB183

Question Serial No.

1155

Head : 137 Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title):
 Environment Bureau

Programme : (3) Sustainable Development

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : The estimate for the Programme (3) Sustainable Development (SD) for 2009-10 will be increased by \$5.4 million (19.9 %) mainly for the implementation of the Council for Sustainable Development (SDC)'s public engagement process on fostering a quality and sustainable built environment and the increased cash flow requirement of the SD Fund. Please give a breakdown of the relevant expenditures by items.

Asked by : Hon. LAU Sau-shing, Patrick

Reply :

The estimate for the Programme (3) SD in 2009-10 is \$5.4 million (19.9%) higher than the revised estimate for 2008-09. This is mainly due to the implementation of the SDC's public engagement process on fostering a quality and sustainable built environment and the increased cash flow requirement of the SD Fund.

Regarding the implementation of the SDC's engagement process, the SDC had needed more time in considering and deciding on the subject of its next engagement process. With due deliberation, the SDC has decided that the new engagement process, on fostering a quality and sustainable built environment, would be launched in mid 2009. As such, most of the expenditure on implementing the engagement process will be incurred in 2009-10. This accounts for about \$2.9 million of the difference of \$5.4 million above mentioned. An increase of another \$2.5 million is attributable to the SD Fund basing on the latest projected cash flow requirements of on-going and new projects.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment

Date _____

13 March 2009

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2009-10
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB184

Question Serial No.

1156

Head : 137 Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title):
Environment Bureau

Programme : (3) Sustainable Development

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : The estimated provision for 2009-2010 is lower than the estimate for 2008-2009 by 14.2%. What are the reasons? Please state in detail what plans and measures the Bureau will take, under the circumstances, to ensure an effective promotion of sustainable development in Hong Kong.

Asked by : Hon. LAU Sau-shing, Patrick

Reply :

Of the 14.2% decrease of the estimated provision for 2009-2010 against the original estimate for 2008-2009, part of it is attributable to having a reduced funding for updating the habitat mapping data in the 2009-2010 financial year. The exercise is a biennial one whereby habitat mapping data for the computer aided sustainability evaluation tool will be updated to maintain the validity of the sustainability assessment system.

The difference is also partly due to the latest projected cash flow requirements for on-going and new projects under the Sustainable Development (SD) Fund. The revised cash flow projection for the SD Fund would not affect the number of projects to be approved for granting the SD Fund. The SD Fund has sufficient resources for granting new projects that could meet the SD Fund's objectives in promoting the concept of sustainable development to the community.

We would continue to monitor the situation closely to make sure that sufficient resources are available for an effective promotion of sustainable development in Hong Kong.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment

Date _____

12 March 2009

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2009-10
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB185

Question Serial No.

2699

Head : 137 Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title):
Environment Bureau

Programme : (2) Power

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : The provision for Environment Bureau under this Programme in 2009 – 2010 will increase by \$5.9 million (33.9%). This is mainly due to additional provision for the consultancy study on the issue of energy wastage of external lighting and increase in cash flow requirement of consultancy studies for developing the regulatory and market restructuring framework of electricity supply industry in Hong Kong. Please provide the following information:

- (a) Details and results of the consultancy studies and a breakdown of the provision involved.
- (b) Detailed breakdowns and information of other expenditures under this Programme.

Asked by : Hon. LAU Sau-shing, Patrick

Reply :

- (a) The Environment Bureau has engaged a consultant to conduct studies on the long-term market structure for the electricity market, which commenced in end January 2009. The consultancy study will cost around \$2.8 million. The engaged consultant will look into options of a new market mechanism and the associated regulatory framework for the post-2018 market, with due regard to the unique situation of Hong Kong. It is expected that the consultancy study will be completed by the end of 2009.

The consultancy studies on the issue of energy wastage of external lighting will cover issues including overseas practices in guiding and regulating external lighting and survey on the impacts of external lighting in Hong Kong. We are in the process of engaging consultants for the studies. It is estimated that the studies will cost about \$4 million and will be completed by the end of 2009.

- (b) Breakdown on other expenditures under programme (2): Power is set out below:

| Item | \$ million |
|---|-------------|
| Personal emoluments and personnel related expenses | 11.3 |
| Other operating expenses (including general administration expenses, information technology support services and provision for other minor studies) | 5.2 |
| Total | 16.5 |

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ **ANISSA WONG**

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for the Environment

Date _____ 18 March 2009

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2009-10
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB186

Question Serial No.

2156

Head : 137 Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title):
 Environment Bureau

Programme : (2) Power

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : Has the timetable for the mandatory implementation of Building Energy Codes already been formulated? What are the details? What are the additional resources and manpower expected for the mandatory implementation of such codes?

Asked by : Hon. LEE Kok-long, Joseph

Reply :

The Administration concluded a public consultation on the proposed mandatory implementation of the Building Energy Codes on 31 March 2008. We are now preparing the legislative proposal for the mandatory scheme, taking into account comments received. We aim to introduce the legislation into the Legislative Council in 2009.

The proposed mandatory scheme will be administered by the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD). The expenditure of EMSD in 2009-10 for the preparation work of the mandatory scheme is estimated to be \$0.8 million, involving the creation of one senior engineer and one engineer posts.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment

Date _____

18 March 2009

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2009-10
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB187

Question Serial No.

2986

Head : 137 Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title):
 Environment Bureau

Programme : (2) Power

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : Besides, to expedite greening works, will the Administration consider providing funding support to those owners who are in need of carrying out roof-top greening?

Asked by : Hon. LEE Kok-long, Joseph

Reply :

The Environment and Conservation Fund under the Environment Bureau accepts applications from non-profit making institutions for funding support to greening projects, including roof-top greening. From April 2008 till now, over 80 applications on greening projects in 98 non-profit making institutions have been approved, involving funding support of \$30.43 million. Amongst these projects, 71 projects include roof-top greening.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment

Date _____

19 March 2009

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2009-10
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB188

Question Serial No.

0473

Head : 137 Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title):
 Environment Bureau

Programme : (3) Sustainable Development

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : The revised estimate in 2008-09 is 28.5% less than the original estimate. What are the reasons?

Asked by : Hon. LEE Wai-king, Starry

Reply :

The revised estimate in 2008-09 is 28.5% less than the original estimate mainly due to the following reasons -

- (a) The Council for Sustainable Development (SDC) had needed more time in considering and deciding on the subject of its next engagement process. With due deliberation, the SDC has decided that the new engagement process, on fostering a quality and sustainable built environment, would be launched in mid 2009. The decrease in the revised estimate against the original estimate reflects that most of the expenditure on implementing the engagement process will be incurred in 2009-10.
- (b) Payment of grants under Sustainable Development Fund is made on reimbursement basis subject to submission of expenditure claims by Fund recipients. In 2008-09, the expenditure claims submitted by Fund recipients are less than the projected cash flow.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ **ANISSA WONG** _____

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for the Environment _____

Date _____ 12 March 2009 _____

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2009-10
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB189

Question Serial No.

0531

Head : 137 Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title):
Environment Bureau

Programme : (3) Sustainable Development

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : The provision for 2009–2010 is 19.9% higher than the revised estimate for 2008–2009. One of the main reasons is due to the implementation of the Council for Sustainable Development (SDC)'s "public engagement process on fostering a quality and sustainable built environment". Would the Administration revise the programmes and the provisions under this Programme owing to the deferral of the legislation in respect of the Buildings Energy Efficiency Bill?

Asked by : Hon. LEE Wai-king, Starry

Reply :

Building design on energy efficiency is one of the three areas for consultation with the public in the SDC's engagement process on fostering a quality and sustainable built environment. Insofar as this aspect is concerned, the public engagement would explore how to encourage more energy efficient building design, such as increased use of sunlight and reduction of air-conditioning demand by roof garden. As such, the schedule or funding for the engagement process in question will not be affected by the revised timetable for taking forward the Buildings Energy Efficiency Bill.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment

Date _____

12 March 2009

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2009-10
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB191

Question Serial No.

2876

Head : 137 Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title):
Environment Bureau

Programme : (1) Director of Bureau's Office

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : As regards this programme, please advise:

- (a) What were the expenditures in respect of the Secretary, Under Secretary and Political Assistant in the revised estimate for 2008-09 and the estimate for 2009-10?
- (b) What were the specific duties and the achievements of the Under Secretary and Political Assistant in 2008-09? In what ways can the creation of the posts be evaluated as representing value for money?

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply :

- (a) The provisions earmarked for the salary provision for the Secretary, the Under Secretary and the Political Assistant in the 2008-09 Revised Estimates and the 2009-10 Estimates under Head 137 are as follows :

| | 2008-09 FY Revised Estimates (\$ million) | 2009-10 FY Estimates (\$ million) |
|---|---|---|
| Secretary for the Environment | 3.58 | 3.58 |
| Under Secretary for the Environment | 1.82 | 2.50 |
| Political Assistant to the Environment | 1.19 | 1.79 |

- (b) Under Secretary for the Environment is responsible principally for assisting the Secretary in undertaking the full range of political work, including the handling of Legislative Council (LegCo) business, and deputising for the Secretary during the latter's temporary absence. For instance, with effect from the 2008-09 legislation session, Secretary for the Environment or Under Secretary for the Environment would normally attend regular meetings of the LegCo Panel on Environmental Affairs. These are important forums for the Government to explain its policies and to secure support for its initiatives. As part of her role in reaching out to the community, the Under Secretary for the Environment chaired a number of district forums on the 2008-09 Policy Address.

The Political Assistant to Secretary for the Environment is responsible principally for providing political support and input to the Secretary and the Under Secretary, and conducting the necessary political liaison at the instruction of the Secretary and the Under Secretary, including the liaison with the media and various stakeholders. Upon assuming office, the Political Assistant to Secretary for the Environment has provided advice from the political perspective on, for instance, the need for lobbying political parties / groups and the handling of invitations and correspondence from political parties / groups. She has also monitored views from interest groups and the general public on policy issues concerned and assessed the political implications.

The appointment of Under Secretary for the Environment and Political Assistant to Secretary for the Environment has strengthened the support to the Secretary in undertaking political work, communicating with the LegCo and other stakeholders, such as District Councils, political parties/ groups, non-government organisations, district personalities as well as business, professional and other bodies, and explaining Government policies to the media and the public at large.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment

Date _____

16 March 2009

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2009-10
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB192

Question Serial No.

2472

Head : 137 Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title):
 Environment Bureau

Programme : (2) Power

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : Please advise the details of measures taken by the Environment Bureau to enhance the transparency of auto-fuel and domestic-fuel prices in 2009.

Asked by : Hon. LI Wah-ming, Fred

Reply :

Starting from October 2008, we have been posting onto Environment Bureau's website, on a weekly basis, the movements in local import prices and retail prices of auto-fuel in comparison with movements of Singapore free-on-board prices for unleaded petrol and motor vehicle diesel to enhance the transparency of auto-fuel prices. In addition, as commissioned by this Bureau, the Consumer Council has launched in their website the oil price "calculator" in February 2009 to promote price competition by oil companies and help consumers make a smart choice among oil companies given an array of discounts and benefits being offered. The Consumer Council will soon introduce a mobile version of the calculator. Arrangements are also under way for disseminating information on auto-fuel prices through additional channels, such as newspapers, radio and television.

On domestic fuels, Shell Hong Kong Limited (Shell), one of the major liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) suppliers in Hong Kong, has voluntarily adopted a pricing mechanism since 1999 to review their domestic LPG prices regularly with this Bureau so as to enhance transparency in their pricing. After each price review, Shell will announce and explain to public the outcome of the review. As regards town gas, the Hong Kong and China Gas Company Ltd. has entered into the Information and Consultation Agreement with the Government since 1997 to increase the transparency in their tariff setting mechanism and provide justification in the event of tariff adjustments.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment

Date _____

13 March 2009

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2009-10
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB193

Question Serial No.

1938

Head : 137 Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title):
 Environment Bureau

Programme : (2) Power

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : The Financial Secretary said in paragraph 27 of the Budget Speech 2009-10 that the Government would allocate an additional \$130 million to carry out works to enhance energy efficiency of government buildings and public facilities. Will the Government inform this Committee whether it will consider providing incentives to private owners who wish to improve their buildings' and facilities' energy efficiency?

Asked by : Hon. SHEK Lai-him, Abraham

Reply :

On top of the \$130 million allocation for energy efficiency improvement works for government buildings and public facilities, the Environment and Conservation Fund has agreed to reserve \$150 million and \$300 million to partially subsidize private building owners to conduct energy-cum-carbon audits (ECAs) and energy efficient projects (EEPs) respectively.

The objective of the ECA funding scheme is to encourage building owners to carry out such audits, with a view to systematically reviewing the use of energy and quantifying the greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions associated with their buildings, and to identify opportunities for enhancements of energy efficiency and reductions in the level of GHG. The scheme will cover ECAs to be carried out in the communal areas of residential, commercial and industrial buildings.

The objective of the EEP funding scheme is to encourage building owners to carry out alteration, addition or improvement works to upgrade the energy efficiency performance of building services installations for communal use in residential, commercial or industrial buildings.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment

Date _____

20 March 2009

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2009-10
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB194

Question Serial No.

1943

Head : 137 Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title):
Environment Bureau

Programme : (2) Power

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : As mentioned in paragraphs 76 and 78 of the Budget Speech 2009-2010, the Financial Secretary will lead a steering committee to study the feasibility of jointly promoting electrical vehicles with manufacturers and the wider use of electric vehicles in the community. In this connection, will the Government inform this Committee the composition, commencement date and the scope of studies of the committee?

Asked by : Hon. SHEK Lai-him, Abraham

Reply :

A steering committee to be chaired by the Financial Secretary will be set up to make recommendations on strategy and specific measures to promote the use of electric vehicles in Hong Kong. It will comprise members from relevant sectors. The steering committee, once established, will consider how best to take forward the various related tasks.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment

Date _____

16 March 2009

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2009-10
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB195

Question Serial No.

1957

Head : 137 Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title): 700,
Environment Bureau Item 017

Programme : (2) Power

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : Will the Government inform this Committee the latest progress of the consultancy studies for developing the regulatory and market restructuring framework of electricity supply industry in Hong Kong? When will the study result be announced? And when will consultation be held with the relevant sectors?

Asked by : Hon. SHEK Lai-him, Abraham

Reply :

The Environment Bureau has engaged a consultant to conduct studies on the long-term market structure for the electricity market, which commenced in end January 2009. The engaged consultant will look into options of a new market mechanism and the associated regulatory framework for the post-2018 market, with due regard to the unique situation of Hong Kong. It is expected that the consultancy study will be completed by the end of 2009. We will consult the stakeholders after the consultancy is completed.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment

Date _____

16 March 2009

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2009-10
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB196

Question Serial No.

2204

Head : 137 Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title):
 Environment Bureau

Programme : (2) Power

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : It is stated in Aim 4 "to ensure reliable and efficient energy supply at reasonable prices". Now that the electricity charge of Hongkong Electric is very much higher than that of the CLP Power, and the price of crude oil is persistently high. How is the Administration going to monitor the energy prices? Will it, for instance, speed up the introduction of a competition law?

Asked by : Hon. TONG Ka-wah, Ronny

Reply :

The Environment Bureau will ensure safe, reliable and efficient energy supply at reasonable prices through the established monitoring arrangements of the operation of the two power companies pursuant to the new Scheme of Control Agreements (SCA) signed in January 2008. Under the arrangements, the Administration has reviewed and approved the Development Plans of the two power companies in late 2008, with CLP Power's and Hongkong Electric's electricity tariffs being reduced from October 2008 and January 2009 respectively resulting also in a significant narrowing of the difference between their respective basic tariffs. In 2009, we will continue to monitor the electricity tariffs of the two power companies through the ongoing annual Tariff Review and Auditing Review under the SCA.

Regarding the retail prices of auto-fuel in Hong Kong, they are determined by individual oil companies having regard to commercial practices and their operating costs. In a free market economy, the Administration does not have the power to dictate fuel prices. Nevertheless, we appreciate the impact of the auto-fuel prices on the local economy and have been monitoring whether changes in local retail prices of auto-fuel are in line with the trend movements of international oil price. We have also introduced measures since late 2008 to enhance the transparency of auto-fuel prices. On the introduction of competition law, the Competition Bill is a very significant and complex legislation. The Administration needs more time to prepare the details of the institutional framework and the exemptions provisions in the Bill. Relevant parties are working closely within the Administration to resolve the technical, legal and policy issues. The Administration aims to introduce the Bill as soon as practicable in the 2009-2010 legislative session.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment

Date _____

17 March 2009

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2009-10
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB197

Question Serial No.

1631

Head : 137 Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title):
Environment Bureau

Programme : (2) Power

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : Please give details of the studies on the long-term market structure for the electricity market. When will the studies be carried out and when will they be completed?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Yung-kan

Reply :

The consultancy study on the long-term market structure for the electricity market commenced in end January 2009. The engaged consultant will look into options of a new market mechanism and the associated regulatory framework for the post-2018 market, with due regard to the unique situation of Hong Kong. It is expected that the consultancy study will be completed by the end of 2009.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment

Date _____

16 March 2009

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2009-10
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB198

Question Serial No.

1632

Head : 137 Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title):
Environment Bureau

Programme : (2) Power

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : Please list the details of the "studies on the phasing out of incandescent light bulbs and the issue of energy wastage of external lighting". What are the commencement and completion dates of the studies?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Yung-kan

Reply :

The consultancy studies on the phasing out of incandescent light bulbs will cover relevant international practices, assessment on viable technology to replace incandescent light bulbs and the availability of replacements. A survey on the local use of incandescent light bulbs will also be conducted. The study has already commenced and will be completed by the end of 2009.

The consultancy studies on the issue of energy wastage of external lighting will cover issues including overseas practices in guiding and regulating external lighting and survey on the impacts of external lighting in Hong Kong. We are in the process of engaging consultants for the studies which are expected to be completed by the end of 2009.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment

Date _____

16 March 2009

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head: 704 – Drainage

Subhead: 4276DS

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Director of Drainage Services

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question: As indicated in Estimates for the year ending 31 March 2010, the revised estimate for 4276DS for 2008-09 is \$110,952,000, as against \$54,452,000 as indicated in Estimates for the year ending 31 March 2009. Please provide reasons for the significant increase. Will the project be expedited because of the increased provision?

Asked by: Hon. SHEK Lai-him, Abraham

Reply:

Contracts under 4276DS “Sha Tin sewage treatment works, stage 3 extension” were awarded in phases, and the last one was awarded only in mid 2008. The increase in the estimated spending for 4276DS in 2008-09, from the original estimate of \$54,452,000 to the revised estimate of \$110,952,000, is mainly due to increase in construction costs resulting in higher than expected tender prices returned in mid 2008 and contract payments, and faster than anticipated progress of part of the works resulting in earlier than expected contract payments.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ K K LAU

Post Title _____ Director of Drainage Services

Date _____ 18 March 2009

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2009-10
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB200

Question Serial No.

2166

Head : 705 Civil Engineering

Subhead (No. & title): 5045DR
Restoration of Pillar Point Valley
landfill

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : Regarding the Restoration of Pillar Point Valley landfill, please advise on:

- (a) Its specific scope of works: has the Administration investigated the effects of the project on the ecosystem and the community in the surrounding areas? If yes, please provide a breakdown on the details of every study or investigation conducted, including their dates, purposes and results.
- (b) Has the Government consulted local residents on the works concerned? If yes, please give details on the time, target groups and methods of consultation, and also the comments of the residents. If the residents' views were not accepted by the Administration eventually, what are the reasons?
- (c) Are there any other offensive works (e.g. waste treatment works) other than such works in the region? Please provide the project names of and expenditures involved on the offensive works conducted or planned for in the region at present.

Asked by : Hon. HO Chun-yan, Albert

Reply :

- (a) The project scope included –
- (i) design and construction of a landfill gas management system;
 - (ii) design and construction of a leachate management system;
 - (iii) design and construction of an engineered capping layer and a surface water drainage system;
 - (iv) improvements to slope stability and landscaping; and
 - (v) post-commissioning works for seven years.

An initial environmental impact assessment study was completed in 1995. The study indicated that the restoration works would ensure proper management of landfill gas and leachate. This would ameliorate the environmental conditions of the site and render it safe to be put to beneficial use.

In addition, a detailed environmental impact assessment on the restoration of Pillar Point Valley landfill was completed in 2005. The assessment aimed to evaluate environmental impacts such as landfill gas, odour, dust, noise, leachate, groundwater, surface water and to identify mitigation measures. The assessment concluded that during the landfill restoration and post-commissioning works periods, there would be no adverse environmental or ecological impacts. The on-going environmental monitoring has provided a means to ensure the effectiveness of the restoration facilities.

- (b) The Environment, Hygiene and District Development Committee of the Tuen Mun District Council and the Legislative Council Panel on Environmental Affairs were consulted on 22 November 2002 and 26 May 2003 respectively. Both the Committee and the Panel supported the project.
- (c) Other waste treatment projects in the vicinity of Pillar Point Valley landfill are listed below.

Projects in progress

- PWP Item 5041DR “Development of West New Territories landfill” with an approved project estimate (APE) of \$2,675 million in money-of-the-day (MOD) prices.
- Head 33 – Subhead 121 “Management of public fill reception facilities including fill banks at Tseung Kwan O and Tuen Mun Area 38 and delivery of surplus public fill to Mainland”, the estimated expenditure in 2009-10 for contract payments, related staff costs and administrative overheads is \$1,116.4 million.
- PWP Item 5033CG “Setting up temporary construction waste sorting facilities at Tseung Kwan O Area 137 and Tuen Mun Area 38” with an APE of \$56.5 million in MOD prices.
- PWP Item 5480CL “Disposal of contaminated mud – management and capping of contaminated mud pit 4” with an APE of \$570.1 million in MOD prices.

Projects under planning

- A feasibility study on the “West New Territories landfill extensions” with an APE of \$14.9 million in MOD prices is being carried out.
- A feasibility study on the “Sludge treatment facilities” with an APE of \$13 million in MOD prices is being carried out.
- A study on the “Engineering investigation and environmental studies for solid wastes facilities at Tsang Tsui and Shek Kwu Chau” with an APE of \$20.5 million in MOD prices is being carried out. The siting for the facility is currently being studied under this feasibility study with a view to selecting the final site.
- PWP Item 5729CL “Disposal of contaminated sediment – dredging, management and capping of sediment disposal facility at Sha Chau” with an APE of \$770.9 million in MOD prices.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ANISSA WONG

Post Title Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date 19 March 2009

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2009-10
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB201

Question Serial No.

2167

Head : 705 Civil Engineering

Subhead (No. & title): 5161DR
Restoration of Shuen Wan landfill –
post-completion environmental
monitoring work

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : Regarding the Restoration of Shuen Wan landfill, please advise on:

- (a) Its specific scope of works: before carrying out the works, has the Administration investigated the effects of the landfill on the ecosystem and the community in the surrounding areas? If yes, please provide a breakdown on the details of every study or investigation conducted, including their dates, purposes and results.
- (b) Will the Government inform local residents of the results of the environmental monitoring in future? If yes, please specify the timetables and the means of notification. If not, what are the reasons?
- (c) Apart from this works, has the Government carried out any environmental monitoring for other offensive works (e.g. waste treatment works) in the region? Please provide the item names of and expenditures involved on the environmental monitoring conducted or planned for in the region at present.

Asked by : Hon. HO Chun-yan, Albert

Reply :

- (a) The project scope included -
- (i) operation and maintenance of landfill gas management system;
 - (ii) operation and maintenance of leachate management system;
 - (iii) environmental monitoring and auditing; and
 - (iv) maintenance of landscape and site infrastructure.

The Restoration of Shuen Wan Landfill study was completed in 1993. The study indicated that the restoration works would ensure proper management of landfill gas and leachate. This would ameliorate the environmental conditions of the site and render it safe to be put to beneficial use.

In addition, a detailed environmental impact assessment on the restoration of Shuen Wan Landfill was completed in 1999. The assessment aimed to evaluate the environmental impacts such as landfill gas, odour, dust, noise, leachate, groundwater, surface water and to identify mitigation measures. The assessment concluded that during the landfill restoration and post-completion environmental monitoring periods, there would be no adverse environmental and ecological impacts. The on-going environmental monitoring has provided a means to ensure the effectiveness of the restoration facilities.

- (b) The environmental monitoring results have shown that the restored landfill posed no adverse environmental impacts to the public. The Environmental Protection Department has liaised with the Tai Po District Council regarding the condition of the restored landfill. Members of the District Council and the community have also visited the restored landfill and they have expressed no major comments.
- (c) Currently there is no other waste treatment project in the vicinity of the Shuen Wan Landfill.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director
of Environmental Protection

Date _____

16 March 2009

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2009-10
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB202

Question Serial No.

2168

Head : 705 Civil Engineering

Subhead (No. & title): 5162DR
Restoration of five urban
landfills – post-completion
environmental monitoring work

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : Regarding the Restoration of five urban landfills, please advise on:

- (a) Their specific scopes of works: before carrying out the works, has the Administration investigated the effects of the landfills on the ecosystem and the community in the surrounding areas? If yes, please provide a breakdown on the details of every study or investigation conducted, including their dates, purposes and results.
- (b) Will the Government inform local residents of the results of the environmental monitoring in future? If yes, please specify the timetables and the means of notification. If not, what are the reasons?
- (c) Apart from this works, has the Government carried out any environmental monitoring for other offensive works (e.g. waste treatment works) in the region? Please provide the item names of and expenditures involved on the environmental monitoring conducted or planned for in the region at present.

Asked by : Hon. HO Chun-yan, Albert

Reply :

- (a) The project scope included -
- (i) operation and maintenance of landfill gas management systems;
 - (ii) operation and maintenance of leachate management system;
 - (iii) environmental monitoring and auditing; and
 - (iv) maintenance of landscape and site infrastructure.

The Restoration of Urban Landfills study was completed in 1993. The study indicated that the restoration works would ensure proper management of landfill gas and leachate. This would ameliorate the environmental conditions of the site and render it safe for beneficial use.

In addition, a detailed environmental impact assessment on the restoration of the five urban landfills was completed in 1999. The assessment aimed to evaluate the environmental impacts such as landfill gas, odour, dust, noise, leachate, groundwater, surface water and to identify mitigation measures. The assessment has concluded that during the landfill restoration and post-completion environmental monitoring periods, there would be no adverse environmental and ecological impacts. The on-going environmental monitoring has provided a means to ensure the effectiveness of the restoration facilities.

- (b) The environmental monitoring results have shown that the restored landfills posed no adverse environmental impacts to the public. The Environmental Protection Department has liaised with the relevant District Councils regarding the conditions of the restored landfills. Members of the District Councils and the community have also visited the restored landfills and they have expressed no major comments.
- (c) One other waste treatment project in the vicinity of Urban Landfills is listed below. The environmental monitoring of the planned project will be carried out and the cost is included in the estimated cost of the project.

Project under Planning

South East Kowloon Material Recovery and Transfer Station (SEKTS)

- A feasibility study on the planning and site review for the SEKTS with an approved project estimate of \$6.6 million in money-of-the-day prices is being carried out. The siting for the SEKTS is currently being studied under this feasibility study with a view to selecting the final site. The facility is planned to serve the East Kowloon region, as well as the Sai Kung district upon closure of the Southeast New Territories Landfill and its extension.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ANISSA WONG

Post Title Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date 17 March 2009

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2009-10
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB203

Question Serial No.

2169

Head : 705 Civil Engineering

Subhead (No. & title): 5166DR
Restoration of Tseung Kwan O
landfills – post-completion
environmental monitoring work

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : Regarding the Restoration of Tseung Kwan O landfills, please advise on:

- (a) Their specific scopes of works: before carrying out the works, has the Administration investigated the effects of the landfills on the ecosystem and the community in the surrounding areas? If yes, please provide a breakdown on the details of every study or investigation conducted, including their dates, purposes and results.
- (b) Will the Government inform local residents of the results of the environmental monitoring in future? If yes, please specify the timetables and the means of notification. If not, what are the reasons?
- (c) Apart from this works, has the Government carried out any environmental monitoring for other offensive works (e.g. waste treatment works) in the region? Please provide the item names of and expenditures involved on the environmental monitoring conducted or planned for in the region at present.

Asked by : Hon. HO Chun-yan, Albert

Reply :

- (a) The project scope included -
- (i) operation and maintenance of landfill gas management system;
 - (ii) operation and maintenance of leachate management system;
 - (iii) environmental monitoring and auditing; and
 - (iv) maintenance of landscape and site infrastructure.

An initial environmental impact assessment study was completed in 1994. The study indicated that the restoration works would ensure proper management of landfill gas and leachate. This would ameliorate the environmental conditions of the site and render it safe for beneficial use.

In addition, a detailed environmental impact assessment on the restoration of the Tseung Kwan O landfills was completed in 1998. The assessment aimed to evaluate the environmental impacts such as landfill gas, odour, dust, noise, leachate, groundwater, surface water and to identify mitigation measures. The assessment has concluded that during the landfill restoration and post-completion environmental monitoring periods, there would be no adverse environmental and ecological impacts. The on-going environmental monitoring has provided a means to ensure the effectiveness of the restoration facilities.

- (b) The environmental monitoring results have shown that the restored landfills posed no adverse environmental impacts to the public. The Environmental Protection Department has liaised with the Sai Kung District Council regarding the conditions of the restored landfills. Members of the District Council and the community have also visited the restored landfills and they have expressed no major comments.

- (c) Other waste treatment projects in the vicinity of Tseung Kwan O landfills are listed below. Environmental monitoring of the existing and planned projects is or will be carried out and the cost is included in the estimated cost of the respective projects.

Projects in progress

- PWP Item 5042DR “Development of Southeast New Territories landfill” with an approved project estimate (APE) of \$3,220 million in money-of-the-day (MOD) prices.
- Head 33 – Subhead 121 “Management of public fill reception facilities including fill banks at Tseung Kwan O and Tuen Mun Area 38 and delivery of surplus public fill to Mainland”, the estimated expenditure in 2009-10 for contract payments, related staff costs and administrative overheads is \$1,116.4 million.
- PWP Item 5033CG “Setting up temporary construction waste sorting facilities at Tseung Kwan O Area 137 and Tuen Mun Area 38” with an APE of \$56.5 million in MOD prices.

Projects under planning

- A feasibility study on the “Southeast New Territories landfill extension” with an APE of \$11 million in MOD prices is being carried out.
- A feasibility study on the “Planning and site review for the South East Kowloon Material Recovery and Transfer Station (SEKTS)” with an APE of \$6.6 million in MOD prices is being carried out. The siting for SEKTS is being studied under this feasibility study with a view to selecting the final site. The facility is planned to serve the East Kowloon region, as well as the Sai Kung district upon closure of the Southeast New Territories landfill and its extension.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ANISSA WONG

Post Title Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date 19 March 2009

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2009-10
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB204

Question Serial No.

2170

Head : 705 Civil Engineering

Subhead (No. & title): 5167DR
Provision of grease trap waste
treatment facility at a refuse
transfer station

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : Regarding the provision of grease trap waste treatment facility at a refuse transfer station, please provide the following information:

- (a) In which district is the facility located? What are the details of the works? Apart from the works, are there any other offensive works (such as waste treatment works) in the district? Please list the names of and the expenditures involved in all the offensive works that have been carried out/are planned to be carried out in the district.
- (b) Has the Administration investigated the impact of the facility on the water quality, ecology and community in the vicinity? If yes, please list the details of each study or investigation, including the dates, purposes and conclusions.
- (c) Has the Administration consulted the residents in the vicinity about the works? If yes, please list the dates, targets, ways of consultation and opinions of the residents. If the Administration eventually has not accepted the opinions of the residents, please give the reasons.

Asked by : Hon. HO Chun-yan, Albert

Reply :

- (a) The Grease Trap Waste Treatment Facility (GTWTF) was installed inside the existing West Kowloon Transfer Station (WKTS) locating on the West Kowloon reclamation area. The GTWTF was commissioned in December 2008 for the recycling of grease trap waste (GTW) into a product that can be used as an alternative fuel. The approved project estimate of the facility is \$85.3 million. There is no other waste management facility near the WKTS.
- (b) The Environmental Protection Department has assessed the environmental impacts arising from the construction and operation of the GTWTF. The key potential environmental impacts are odour, air quality, water quality and waste management. The assessment showed that, with the implementation of appropriate environmental pollution control measures, the GTWTF would not cause adverse environmental impacts to the surrounding areas.
- (c) We consulted the Environment and Food Committee of the Sham Shui Po District Council on the project in November 2005 and members had no objection to the project.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

16 March 2009

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 705 - Civil Engineering Subhead : 5033CG

Setting up temporary construction waste sorting facilities at Tseung Kwan O Area 137 and Tuen Mun Area 38

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Civil Engineering and Development

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question :

Regarding the setting up of temporary construction waste sorting facilities at Tseung Kwan O Area 137 and Tuen Mun Area 38, please advise:

- (a) The specific details of the project. Apart from this project, are there any other obnoxious projects (e.g. waste treatment works) at present in the district? Please provide the respective project titles and expenditures of all obnoxious projects carried out or under planning at present in the district.
- (b) Whether the Administration has investigated the impacts of the project on the air quality and community in the vicinity? If yes, please list the details of each study or investigation, including the dates, objectives and conclusions of the investigation.
- (c) Whether the Administration has consulted the local residents on the works? If yes, please specify the dates, targets and form of consultations, together with the views of the residents. If the Administration did not accept the views of the residents finally, what are the reasons?

Asked by : Hon. HO Chun-yan, Albert

Reply :

- (a) The project 5033CG was for the setting up of a temporary construction waste sorting facility respectively at Tseung Kwan O Area 137 and Tuen Mun Area 38, with associated infrastructure and temporary access roads. To tie in with the implementation of the Construction Waste Disposal Charging Scheme, the sorting facilities were put into operation on 20 January 2006.

Other waste treatment projects in the district are listed below:-

(A) In the vicinity of Tseung Kwan O Area 137 Sorting Facility

Projects in progress

- (i) PWP Item 5042DR “Development of Southeast New Territories landfill” with an approved project estimate (APE) of \$3,220 million in money-of-the-day (MOD) prices.
- (ii) Head 33 – Subhead 121 “Management of public fill reception facilities including fill banks at Tseung Kwan O Area 137 and Tuen Mun Area 38 and delivery of surplus public fill to Mainland”, the estimated expenditure in 2009-10 for contract payments, related staff costs and administrative overheads is \$1,116.4 million.

Projects under planning

- (i) A feasibility study on the “Southeast New Territories landfill extension” with an APE of \$11 million in MOD prices is being carried out.
- (ii) A feasibility study on the “Planning and site review for the South East Kowloon Material Recovery and Transfer Station (SEKTS)” with an APE of \$6.6 million in MOD prices is being carried out. The siting for SEKTS is being studied under this feasibility study with a view to selecting the final site. The facility is planned to serve the East Kowloon region, as well as the Sai Kung district upon closure of the Southeast New Territories Landfill and its extension.

(B) In the vicinity of Tuen Mun Area 38 Sorting Facility

Projects in progress

- (i) PWP Item 5041DR “Development of West New Territories landfill” with an APE of \$2,675 million in MOD prices.
- (ii) Head 33 – Subhead 121 “Management of public fill reception facilities including fill banks at Tseung Kwan O Area 137 and Tuen Mun Area 38 and delivery of surplus public fill to Mainland”, the estimated expenditure in 2009-10 for contract payments, related staff costs and administrative overheads is \$1,116.4 million.
- (iii) PWP Item 5480CL “Disposal of contaminated mud – management and capping of contaminated mud pit 4” with an APE of \$570.1 million in MOD prices.

Projects under planning

- (i) A feasibility study on the “West New Territories landfill extensions” with an APE of \$14.9 million in MOD prices is being carried out.
 - (ii) A feasibility study on the “Sludge treatment facilities” with an APE of \$13 million in MOD prices is being carried out.
 - (iii) A study on the “Engineering investigation and environmental studies for solid wastes facilities at Tsang Tsui and Shek Kwu Chau” with an APE of \$20.5 million in MOD prices is being carried out. The siting for the facility is currently being studied under this feasibility study with a view to selecting the final site.
 - (iv) PWP Item 5729CL “Disposal of contaminated sediment – dredging, management and capping of sediment disposal facility at Sha Chau” with an APE of \$770.9 million in MOD prices.
- (b) At both Tseung Kwan O Area 137 and Tuen Mun Area 38, the temporary fill bank and sorting facility are adjoining facilities both managed by the Civil Engineering and Development Department. Environmental assessments concluded that environmental impact from the fill banks and sorting facilities could be controlled to within established guidelines and standards. During the course of the works, we implemented the environmental and mitigation measures to mitigate any environmental impact to the vicinity. During operation, we have been reporting the data and results from environmental monitoring work to the Environmental Protection Department. According to the results, there was no unacceptable adverse impact in relation to air quality of the vicinity.

The relevant dates of environmental studies and monitoring work are as follows:

| Name of Studies / Work | Date / Period |
|--|-------------------------|
| Fill Bank at Tuen Mun Area 38 – Project Profile | January 2003 |
| Fill Bank at Tseung Kwan O Area 137 – Environmental Impact Assessment Report | March 2002 |
| Fill Bank at Tuen Mun Area 38 – Independent Environmental Checker | February 2003 – present |
| Fill Bank at Tseung Kwan O Area 137 – Independent Environmental Checker | June 2002 – present |
| Fill Bank at Tuen Mun Area 38 – Environmental Review | December 2008 |
| Fill Bank at Tseung Kwan O Area 137 – Environmental Review | December 2008 |

- (c) We consulted the Tuen Mun District Council (TMDC) and its Environment, Hygiene and District Development Committee (EHDDC) on 5 November 2002 and 17 September 2004 respectively for the establishment and operation of the fill bank cum sorting facility at Tuen Mun Area 38. Members supported in principle the implementation of the proposed works provided that the proposed works would not affect the proposed Eco-Park Project on the same site and that the TMDC and EHDDC would be briefed on the progress regularly. In addition, we consulted the Sai Kung District Council on 11 June 2002 and 1 June 2004 on the establishment and operation of the fill bank cum sorting facility at Tseung Kwan O. Members supported the implementation of the proposed works.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ JOHN S V CHAI _____

Post Title _____ Director of Civil Engineering and Development _____

Date _____ 23.3.2009 _____

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 705 - Civil Engineering

Subhead : 5093DR

Chai Wan Public Fill Barging
Point

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Civil Engineering and Development

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question :

Regarding the Chai Wan Public Fill Barging Point, please advise:

- (a) The specific details of the project. Apart from this project, are there any other obnoxious projects (e.g. waste treatment works) at present in the district? Please provide the respective project titles and expenditures of all obnoxious projects carried out or under planning at present in the district.
- (b) Whether the Administration has investigated the impacts of the project on the water quality and community in the vicinity? If yes, please list the details of each study or investigation, including the dates, objectives and conclusions of the investigation.
- (c) Whether the Administration has consulted the local residents on the works? If yes, please specify the date, targets and form of consultations, together with the views of the residents. If the Administration did not accept the views of the residents finally, what are the reasons?

Asked by : Hon. HO Chun-yan, Albert

Reply :

- (a) The project 5093DR with an approved project estimate of \$102.7 million was for setting up a permanent Chai Wan Public Fill Barging Point (CWPFBP) including an enclosed tipping hall for unloading of public fill into barges. Construction work commenced in October 2006 and was substantially completed in August 2008. CWPFBP commenced operation on 22 December 2008.

One other waste treatment project in progress in the vicinity of the CWPFBP is 5168DR "Refurbishment and modification of Island East Transfer Station" with an approved project estimate of \$56.5 million in money-of-the-day prices.

- (b) We completed an environmental study in 2000 to assess the environmental impacts of the construction and operation of CWPFBP. The recommendations of the environmental study concluded that wheel-washing facility, water spraying system, and enclosed tipping hall should be provided during operation. Also, according to the traffic impact assessments conducted in 2000 and 2005, the operation of the barging point had no adverse impact on the traffic in the district.
- (c) We consulted the then Works and Development Committee (WDC) of the Eastern District Council on the setting up and operation of the barging point in April 2000, October 2000, February 2005, December 2005 and March 2006. Concerns have been raised by Members of the then WDC, in particular on the need for the Government to actively pursue the installation of mechanical cover for dump trucks in order to mitigate air quality impacts and ensure road safety. Also, there have been concerns about the traffic impact on the Chai Wan area. To address the former, the then Environment, Transport and Works Bureau promulgated a Technical Circular in December 2005 requiring all public works contracts with contract sum of \$20 million or more to use dump trucks equipped with mechanical covers for delivery of construction and demolition materials under the Pay for Safety and Environment Scheme/Pay for Safety Scheme. Since March 2006, we have been reporting regularly to the then WDC, and later the Planning, Works and Housing Committee, on the progress of cover installation. As regards concern on traffic impact, some road improvement works were completed by the Transport Department in order to improve the traffic circulation. Both the then WDC and the Traffic and Transport Committee of the Eastern District Council have not raised objection to the project.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ JOHN S V CHAI

Post Title _____ Director of Civil Engineering and Development

Date _____ 23.3.2009

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2009-10
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB207

Question Serial No.

2788

Head : 705 Civil Engineering

Subhead (No. & title): 5041DR
Development of West New
Territories landfill

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : Regarding the Development of the West New Territories landfill, please advise on:

- (a) Where is the location of the landfill? What is its scope of works? Are there any other offensive works (e.g. waste disposal works) other than such works in the district? Please provide the project names of and expenditures involved on all the offensive works conducted or planned for in the district at present.
- (b) Has the Administration investigated the effects of the landfill on the water quality, the ecosystem and the community in the surrounding areas of the district? If yes, please provide a breakdown on the details of every study or investigation conducted, including their dates, purposes and results.

Has the Administration consulted local residents on the works concerned? If yes, please give details on the time, target groups and ways of consultation, and also the views of the residents. If the residents' views were not accepted by the Administration eventually, what are the reasons?

Asked by : Hon. HO Chun-yan, Albert

Reply :

(a) The West New Territories (WENT) landfill is located at Nim Wan, Tuen Mun.

The scope of project includes:-

- (i) landfill design and construction;
- (ii) landfill operation (e.g. waste tipping, leachate and landfill gas management, etc.);
- (iii) environmental monitoring; and
- (iv) landfill restoration.

Other waste treatment projects in the vicinity of the existing WENT landfill are listed below.

Projects in progress

- Head 33 – Subhead 121 “Management of public fill reception facilities including fill banks at Tseung Kwan O and Tuen Mun Area 38 and delivery of surplus public fill to Mainland”, the estimated expenditure in 2009-10 for contract payments, related staff costs and administrative overheads is \$1,116.4 million.
- PWP Item 5033CG “Setting up temporary construction waste sorting facilities at Tseung Kwan O Area 137 and Tuen Mun Area 38” with an approved project estimate (APE) of \$56.5 million in money-of-the-day (MOD) prices.
- PWP Item 5480CL “Disposal of contaminated mud – management and capping of contaminated mud pit 4” with an APE of \$570.1 million in MOD prices.

Projects under planning

- A feasibility study on the “West New Territories landfill extensions” with an APE of

\$14.9 million in MOD prices is being carried out.

- A feasibility study on the “Sludge treatment facilities” with an APE of \$13 million in MOD prices is being carried out.
 - A study on the “Engineering investigation and environmental studies for solid wastes facilities at Tsang Tsui and Shek Kwu Chau” with an APE of \$20.5 million in MOD prices is being carried out. The siting for the facility is currently being studied under this feasibility study with a view to selecting the final site.
 - PWP Item 5729CL “Disposal of contaminated sediment – dredging, management and capping of sediment disposal facility at Sha Chau” with an APE of \$770.9 million in MOD prices.
- (b) An extensive environmental monitoring programme has been established for the operation of the WENT landfill since the commencement of its operation in 1993. Over 150 environmental monitoring stations along the perimeter of the landfill and nearby villages are set up for various monitoring parameters (including odour, dust, surface water, groundwater, noise, treated effluent discharge, etc.) on a regular basis. Our monitoring results have shown that the WENT landfill has no adverse environmental impact on the surrounding areas.
- (c) We have maintained regular contact with members of the Tuen Mun District Council (TMDC) and local community on the operation of the landfill. As part of the operation and monitoring programme to address possible concerns of the local community, our staff visit nearby villages from time to time, and respond promptly to issues about the operation of the landfill. Members of the TMDC and local community have also visited the landfill in the past years and they were briefed about the environmental performance of the landfill.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ANISSA WONG

Post Title Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date 20 March 2009

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2009-10
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB208

Question Serial No.

2789

Head : 705 Civil Engineering

Subhead (No. & title): 5033DR
Development of Northeast New
Territories landfill

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : Regarding the Development of the Northeast New Territories landfill, please advise on:

- (a) Where is the location of the landfill? What is its scope of works? Are there any other offensive works (e.g. waste disposal works) other than such works in the district? Please provide the project names of and expenditures involved on all the offensive works conducted or planned for in the district at present.
- (b) Has the Administration investigated the effects of the landfill on the water quality, the ecosystem and the community in the surrounding areas of the district? If yes, please provide a breakdown on the details of every study or investigation conducted, including their dates, purposes and results.
- (c) Has the Government consulted local residents on the works concerned? If yes, please give details on the time, target groups and ways of consultation, and also the views of the residents. If the residents' views were not accepted by the Administration eventually, what are the reasons?

Asked by : Hon. HO Chun-yan, Albert

Reply :

- (a) The Northeast New Territories (NENT) Landfill is located at Ta Kwu Ling of the North District.

The scope of project included:—

- (i) landfill design and construction;
- (ii) landfill operation (e.g. waste tipping, leachate and landfill gas management, etc.);
- (iii) environmental monitoring; and
- (iv) landfill restoration.

There is one waste treatment project being planned in the vicinity of the existing NENT Landfill as below:

Northeast New Territories Landfill Extension

- A feasibility study on the “Northeast New Territories Landfill Extension” with an approved project estimate of \$12 million in money-of-the-day prices is being carried out.
- (b) An extensive environmental monitoring programme has been established for the operation of the NENT Landfill since the commencement of its operation in 1995. Over 30 environmental monitoring stations along the perimeter of the landfill and nearby villages are set up for various monitoring activities (including odour, dust, noise, landfill gas, surface water, groundwater, etc.) on a regular basis. The environmental monitoring results have shown that the NENT landfill has no adverse environmental impact on the surrounding areas.

- (c) We have maintained regular contact with members of the North District Council (NDC) and local community on the operation of the landfill. As part of the operation and monitoring programme to address possible concerns of the local community, our staff visit nearby villages from time to time, and respond promptly to issues about the operation of the landfill. Members of the NDC and local community have also visited the landfill in the past years and they were briefed about the environmental performance of the landfill.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ANISSA WONG

Post Title Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date 20 March 2009

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

ENB209

Question Serial No.

Head : 705 Civil Engineering

Subhead (No. & title): 5042DR
Development of Southeast New
Territories landfill

2790

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : Regarding the Development of the Southeast New Territories landfill, please advise on:

- (a) Where is the location of the landfill? What is its scope of works? Are there any other offensive works (e.g. waste disposal works) other than such works in the district? Please provide the project names of and expenditures involved on all the offensive works conducted or planned for in the district at present.
- (b) Has the Administration investigated the effects of the landfill on the water quality, the ecosystem and the community in the surrounding areas of the district? If yes, please provide a breakdown on the details of every study or investigation conducted, including their dates, purposes and results.
- (c) Has the Government consulted local residents on the works concerned? If yes, please give details on the time, target groups and ways of consultation, and also the views of the residents. If the residents' views were not accepted by the Administration eventually, what are the reasons?

Asked by : Hon. HO Chun-yan, Albert

Reply :

- (a) The Southeast New Territories (SENT) landfill is located at Clear Water Bay, Tseung Kwan O.

The scope of project includes:–

- (i) landfill design and construction;
- (ii) landfill operation (e.g. waste tipping, leachate and landfill gas management, etc.);
- (iii) environmental monitoring; and
- (iv) landfill restoration.

Other waste treatment projects in the vicinity of the existing SENT landfill are listed below.

Projects in progress

- Head 33 – Subhead 121 “Management of public fill reception facilities including fill banks at Tseung Kwan O and Tuen Mun Area 38 and delivery of surplus public fill to Mainland”, the estimated expenditure in 2009-10 for contract payments, related staff costs and administrative overheads is \$1,116.4 million.
- PWP Item 5033CG “Setting up temporary construction waste sorting facilities at Tseung Kwan O Area 137 and Tuen Mun Area 38” with an approved project estimate (APE) of \$56.5 million in money-of-the-day (MOD) prices.

Projects under planning.

- A feasibility study on the “Southeast New Territories landfill extension” with an APE of

\$11 million in MOD prices is being carried out.

- A feasibility study on the “Planning and site review for the South East Kowloon Material Recovery and Transfer Station (SEKTS) with an APE of \$6.6 million in MOD prices is being carried out. The siting for SEKTS is being studied under this feasibility study with a view to selecting the final site. The facility is planned to serve the East Kowloon region, as well as the Sai Kung district upon closure of the SENT landfill and its extension.
- (b) An extensive environmental monitoring programme has been established for the operation of the SENT landfill since the commencement of its operation in 1994. Over 150 environmental monitoring stations along the perimeter of the landfill and nearby areas are set up for various monitoring parameters (including odour, dust, surface water, groundwater, noise, treated effluent discharge, etc.) on a regular basis. Our monitoring results have shown that the SENT landfill has no adverse environmental impact on the surrounding areas.
- (c) We have maintained regular contact with members of the Sai Kung District Council (SKDC) and local community on the operation of the landfill. Members of the SKDC and local community have also visited the landfill in the past years and they were briefed about the environmental performance of the landfill. As part of the operation and monitoring programme to address possible concerns of the local community, our staff have also responded promptly to issues about the operation of the landfill. As regards the concern raised by the Tseung Kwan O residents on the potential odour problem, we have introduced a number of odour control enhancement measures to address the concern and to minimize such potential problem.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ANISSA WONG

Post Title Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date 20 March 2009

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2009-10
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB210

Question Serial No.

2791

Head : 705 Civil Engineering

Subhead (No. & title): 5070DR Low-level radioactive waste storage facility

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : Regarding the low-level radioactive waste storage facility, please advise on:

- (a) Where is the location of the facility? What is its scope of works? Are there any other offensive works (e.g. waste treatment works) other than such works in the district? Please provide the project names of and expenditures involved on all the offensive works conducted or planned for in the district at present.
- (b) Has the Administration investigated the effects of the facility on the water quality, the ecosystem and the community in the surrounding areas of the district? If yes, please provide a breakdown on the details of every study or investigation conducted, including their dates, purposes and results.
- (c) Has the Government consulted local residents on the works concerned? If yes, please give details on the time, target groups and ways of consultation, and also the views of the residents. If the residents' views were not accepted by the Administration eventually, what are the reasons?

Asked by : Hon. HO Chun-yan, Albert

Reply :

- (a) The low-level radioactive waste storage facility (the Facility) is located adjacent to Sum Wan at Siu A Chau. The scope of the project comprises the design, construction and operation of a purpose built low-level radioactive waste storage facility .

The approved project estimate of the project is \$89.1 million in money-of-the-day prices. The Facility has been put into operation since July 2005. Currently, there is no other EPD project in the vicinity of Siu A Chau.

- (b) An Environmental Impact and Safety Assessment Study on the Facility was completed in 1995. The study concluded that any ecological impact would be localised and that the liquid and gaseous discharges, if any, would meet the established standards and dose limits for the public in terms of radiological impact. The study was endorsed by the Advisory Council on the Environment (ACE) in July 1995. The development was supported by the ACE when it was further briefed in February 2002 on the Government's plan to construct the Facility.
- (c) The Legislative Council Panel on Environmental Affairs (the Panel) was consulted on 15 April 1994 on the need for a purpose-built storage facility. No objection to the project was raised by members. The Panel was subsequently briefed on the development of the Facility in June 1995, April 1997, March 2001, February 2002 and June 2003. There were no objections from members.

Since 1991, the Wan Chai District Council had been urging the Government to decommission the previous store at the Queen's Road East tunnel and provide a proper storage facility for low-level radioactive waste. The Council was briefed on the development of the proposed Facility in April 1997, May and July 1998, May 2000, January and May 2001, March and May 2002, September 2003 and May 2005. The proposal was supported by members.

The Islands District Council was consulted in February 1995 about the proposed project. The proposal was supported by members. Their support for the project was reaffirmed in April 2002. The Islands District Council was further briefed on the waste transfer arrangement in April 2005.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ ANISSA WONG _____

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection _____

Date _____ 16 March 2009 _____

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2009-10
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ENB211

Question Serial No.

1954

Head : 705 Civil Engineering

Subhead (No. & title):
Environment – Environmental
Protection Refuse disposal

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : As indicated in Estimates for the year ending 31 March 2010, the revised estimate for 2008-09 for this aspect is \$221,311,000, as against the original estimate of \$122,738,000. Please provide reasons for the significant increase. What measures will be taken to avoid such a big difference in the future estimates?

Asked by : Hon. SHEK Lai-him, Abraham

Reply :

The increase of the revised estimate provision for 2008-09 is mainly due to the increased expenditure in a number of projects including the following:

- (a) PWP item 5167DR “Provision of grease trap waste treatment facility at a refuse transfer station” – an increase of \$76.5 million (from \$4.2 million to \$80.7 million) which is related to the commissioning schedule of the facility. The revised estimate of \$80.7 million in 2008-09 is a lump sum payment upon satisfactory commissioning of the facility. As the contractor has changed its commissioning testing schedule from late 2007-08 to 2008-09, the payment of \$80.7M was deferred correspondingly. The EPD will closely monitor the progress of all projects in future to avoid any significant change of funding requirements.
- (b) PWP item 5093DR “Chai Wan Public Fill Barging Point” – The original estimate for the project for 2008-09 is \$23.3 million while the revised estimate is \$40.7 million. The increase is due to expedited progress of the construction work to ensure timely commissioning of the barging point.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

17 March 2009