
Chapter 2

Quality City And Quality Life

Preamble

The concept of “Progressive Development” advocated by the Chief Executive is to develop a quality city life by striking a balance between economic development and environmental conservation. Last year the Government made substantial progress in implementing environmental protection initiatives and relevant legislative work was completed on schedule. Environmental protection is a long-term continuing commitment. The Government will strive to promote regional co-operation to improve air quality within the region, and develop the Pearl River Delta (PRD) Region into a green and quality living area. Global warming is an international concern. We will prepare for this challenge with early planning. In particular, we will enhance energy efficiency and promote a low carbon economy — an economy based on low energy consumption and pollution.

For heritage conservation, there is a community-wide consensus that we should revitalise historic buildings. We will continue our efforts in beautifying the coasts of the Victoria Harbour by turning it into a landmark to be enjoyed by our people and visitors alike.

New Initiatives

We will:

- Introduce a Bill to amend the Public Health and Municipal Services Ordinance to empower the authorities to where necessary issue orders to prohibit the import and sale of problem food and order a recall of problem food.
- Work with the Guangdong authorities to formulate a strategy to transform the PRD Region into a green and quality living area.
- Reserve \$150 million and \$300 million under the Environment and Conservation Fund to subsidise building owners in carrying out energy-cum-carbon audits, and energy efficiency projects respectively.
- Engage the business sector to conduct carbon audit for over 100 buildings in the coming year.
- Extend the existing Hong Kong Awards for Environmental Excellence to recognise carbon reduction efforts.
- Promote environmental protection and energy conservation in government buildings to further encourage energy conservation, including setting targets in various environmental aspects for new government buildings.

- Demonstrate state-of-the-art energy efficient designs and technologies by means of a government building and an educational building under planning as energy efficiency demonstration projects.
- Implement a district cooling system to meet the demand of air-conditioning for public and private non-domestic developments at Kai Tak Development.
- Commence a study on phasing out incandescent light bulbs and replacing them with more energy-efficient lighting products and whether to introduce a statutory restriction on the sale of incandescent light bulbs.
- Study the issue of energy wastage of external lighting, and assess the feasibility of regulating external lighting by legislation.
- Study to control the emissions of off-road mobile sources operating within the airport and container terminals.
- Study the technical feasibility of local ferries using ultra-low sulphur diesel.
- Accelerate the phasing out of hydrochlorofluorocarbons to meet the new phasing out schedule agreed by the Montreal Protocol in September 2007.
- Extend the control of the Air Pollution Control (Volatile Organic Compounds) Regulation to limit the contents of volatile organic compounds in adhesives, sealants, vehicle refinishing paints and marine vessels paints.

- Devise a Producer Responsibility Scheme for used electrical and electronic equipment to enhance their recovery and recycling, with a view to consulting the public on possible mandatory options.
- Consider establishing geological park in Hong Kong, so as to preserve Hong Kong's unique and valuable geological resources.
- Ban commercial fishing in marine parks. The ban will improve ecosystems in marine parks and offer better protection for marine organisms.
- Strengthen our work on harbourfront enhancement and the implementation of harbourfront enhancement initiatives.
- Consult the public on the conservation and revitalisation of the original site of the Central School (i.e. the Former Police Married Quarters Site on Hollywood Road) for educational use and promotion of creative industries that will best reflect the historical significance of the Site and complement the characteristics of the Hollywood Road area.
- Conduct a review on the policy for the provision of public facilities in private developments.
- Consult the public on appropriate measures to be taken to reduce the bulk of buildings and to foster development of a better and more sustainable built environment.
- Commence the mid-term review of the domestic free television programme service licences with a view to gauging the public feedback on the analogue and digital services provided by the licensees.

- Revitalise the market for Hong Kong films in South East Asia including Taiwan, Singapore and Malaysia.
- Commence reviewing the operation of the Film Development Fund.
- Support, through the Film Development Fund, a project to incorporate animation in the visual arts education curriculum to develop secondary school students' appreciation of animation and filming skills as well as creativity.
- Engage our creative industry in our participation in the Urban Best Practices Area Exhibition of the Shanghai Expo to be held in 2010 and to issue the related tenders.
- Capitalise on the public enthusiasm for the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games to promote "Sports for all" through a number of measures, including –
 - (a) working more closely with the District Councils and National Sports Associations to introduce more sports programmes to suit the needs of people of different age groups;
 - (b) liaising with the business sector to sponsor more underprivileged groups to attend major sports events as spectators and participants in side programmes;
 - (c) strengthening the promotion of major sports events both locally and overseas with a view to further stimulating public participation as spectators and supporters and promoting Hong Kong as an events capital; and

- (d) establishing a more effective feeder system for early identification of young potential athletes.
- Provide additional funding to the small- and medium-sized performing arts groups to support their use of non-Leisure and Cultural Services Department venues to enrich the cultural life across the districts and to usher in a more vibrant and lively arts scene prior to the coming on-stream of the West Kowloon Cultural District (WKCD) facilities.
 - At the district level, launch specially curated entertainment programmes, community cultural events, student performances, etc. through the Leisure and Cultural Services Department for audience development and arts education to further develop the local cultural software fabric.
 - Provide funding support for the Hong Kong Maritime Museum's relocation to the Central Pier 8 in order to establish a larger-scale and more representative maritime museum for Hong Kong. We should have a maritime museum that is commensurate with Hong Kong's standing as an international port city for over a century and as a regional cultural hub.
 - Work closely with the WKCD Authority to develop the arts and cultural facilities in the WKCD, at the same time provide a variety of good quality arts and cultural activities as early as possible, and broaden Hong Kong's exchanges with other places in contemporary art and performing arts, so as to enrich people's cultural life.

- Organise the Asia Cultural Co-operation Forum in 2009 to foster partnership between Governments in the Asian region and enhance Hong Kong's position as the cultural and creative hub of Asia.

On-going Initiatives

We are:

- Continuing our preparation for participation in the Shanghai Expo 2010 to showcase HKSAR's unique strengths, quality city life and position as a creative capital.
- Promoting a culture of innovation, technology and design to the general public, particularly the younger generation to support the development of creative industry.
- Implementing the DesignSmart Initiative to promote wider use of design and innovation in industries to help them move up the value chain.
- Promoting Hong Kong design and encouraging the use of design to add value to our goods and services and Government's interface with the public, through enhanced support for the Hong Kong Design Centre.
- Promoting the development of the film industry through implementing recommendations from the Film Development Council.
- Continuing to strengthen the elements of design and creativity in the areas of teacher professional development programmes, learning and teaching resources, student learning experiences and student assessment so as to enhance primary and secondary students' creativity.

- Continuing our support for initiatives to nurture creative talent. We have facilitated the successful commissioning of the Jockey Club Creative Arts Centre in March 2008 to provide creative arts space for artists.
- Continuing the Brand Hong Kong review, with emphasis on public engagement so as to foster a vision for the future of Hong Kong and values that will be shared and owned by the community. A marketing strategy will be worked out to promote the updated Brand in the region and internationally.
- Planning the launching of the second batch of buildings under the “Revitalising Historic Buildings Through Partnership Scheme” so that more historic buildings can be put into adaptive re-use through the operation of social enterprises by non-governmental organisations.
- Exploring various options of making best use of historic buildings with commercial potential.
- Taking forward the conservation and revitalisation of the Central Police Station, Victoria Prison and the former Central Magistracy Compound in partnership with the Hong Kong Jockey Club.
- Putting in place appropriate measures to provide financial assistance to owners in maintaining their privately-owned graded historic buildings.
- Continuing with the development of a comprehensive cycle track network in the New Territories to improve the quality of living.

- Pressing ahead with the detailed design and construction works for the comprehensive water mains replacement and rehabilitation programme.
- Continuing to achieve the objective of decking and/or landscaping 16 sections of nullahs by 2014 to improve the living environment.
- Firming up options for the improvement of the Yuen Long Town Nullah to enhance the local environment quality and the ecological value of the nullah.
- Taking forward the reprovisioning of the Sha Tin Water Treatment Works in stages with a view to minimising the risk of disruption of water supply to the public during reprovisioning.
- Continuing to promote the wider use of energy efficient devices and adoption of renewable energy systems in public works projects.
- Completing the development of Greening Master Plans (GMPs) for remaining urban areas and start the greening works by end-2009. Thereafter, we will move onto the preparation of GMPs for the New Territories.
- Developing a performance-based regulatory system to facilitate modern and innovative building design.
- Preparing the relevant subsidiary legislation for a minor works control system in accordance with the Buildings (Amendment) Ordinance 2008. We will implement the minor works control system to streamline statutory procedures for processing such works in order to improve the legislative framework for building control and building safety as early as possible.

- Proceeding with drafting legislation on a mandatory building inspection scheme and a mandatory window inspection scheme to require private building owners to inspect their buildings and windows regularly for introduction into Legislative Council as early as possible.
- Working closely with the Hong Kong Housing Society (HKHS) and the Urban Renewal Authority (URA) to assist owners of older buildings to properly manage and maintain their buildings. We are also continuing our efforts to enhance building management and maintenance of private buildings through public education, publicity and participation of professional bodies.
- Implementing the flood prevention programme to enhance the protection level in flood prone areas, including a review of the Drainage Master Plans for northern and northwestern New Territories.
- Continuing with the Landslip Preventive Measures Programme to improve slope safety and visual impact of the built environment. We will upgrade another selected batch of 250 substandard Government man-made slopes and conduct safety-screening for another 300 private man-made slopes in the coming year.
- Proceeding with the preparatory work for the Landslip Prevention and Mitigation Programme to dovetail with the current 2000-2010 Landslip Preventive Measures Programme.
- Collaborating closely with the URA and the HKHS in area improvement schemes to preserve local characteristics.

- Continuing to stipulate in all outline zoning plans clear development restrictions on plot ratio/gross floor area, site coverage and/or building height where justified to improve the living environment.
- Engaging the local community in finalising the revised schemes of property development projects of a reduced development intensity at Nam Cheong and Yuen Long Stations along the West Rail.
- Ensuring that our planning, land use and urban design are in line with our stated mission to protect the Victoria Harbour and enhance it for the enjoyment of our residents and visitors alike, with the participation of the community.
- Conducting a review of the Urban Renewal Strategy to ensure that it will continue to reflect the values and priorities of the community. We aim to complete the review in mid-2010.
- Making preparation for the legislation for the mandatory compliance with the Building Energy Codes to improve energy efficiency and conservation in new and existing buildings.
- Implementing the first phase of the Mandatory Energy Efficiency Labelling Scheme, and making preparation for the amendments to the Energy Efficiency (Labelling of Products) Ordinance for the second phase of the scheme.
- Continuing to monitor the progress of the two power companies in developing commercial-scale wind energy projects.

- Tightening progressively the caps on the total emissions of power companies according to the Air Pollution Control Ordinance, and requiring them to maximise the use of natural gas in power generation.
- Continuing with the implementation of the Regional Air Quality Management Plan together with the Guangdong Provincial Government to reduce the emission of four major air pollutants in the PRD with a view to achieving the joint emission reduction targets.
- Continuing to implement the five-year “Cleaner Production Partnership Programme” launched in April 2008 to provide professional and technical support by Hong Kong Productivity Council to Hong Kong-owned factories in the PRD Region to adopt cleaner production technologies and practices in order to reduce emissions and enhance energy efficiency, and thereby further improve regional air quality.
- Continuing to tighten vehicle emission and fuel standards in tandem with the EU.
- Developing a proposal for stakeholder consultation with a view to strengthening the control of emissions from petrol and Liquefied Petroleum Gas vehicles, including the use of roadside remote sensing equipment and dynamometers for emission testing.
- Formulating a regulatory framework for implementing a statutory ban on idling engines in the light of the views received during the public consultation, with a view to introducing the new legislation to the Legislative Council in 2009.

- Providing incentives to encourage owners of pre-Euro and Euro I diesel commercial vehicles to replace their old vehicles with those complying with the prevalent emission requirements for newly registered vehicles, including extension of the deadline for owners of pre-Euro diesel commercial vehicles to apply for the one-off grant from 30 September 2008 to 31 March 2010 (which is the same as that for Euro I diesel commercial vehicles), and considering the option of increasing the licence fees for old commercial vehicles so as to accelerate their retirement.
- Encouraging the use of environment-friendly private petrol cars and commercial vehicles by reduction in first registration tax.
- Making Euro V diesel, a more environmental-friendly fuel with 80% less sulphur content than ultra low sulphur diesel, the statutory standard in 2009.
- Promoting the use of biodiesel by committing to a duty-free policy and developing specifications on its use as motor vehicle fuel.
- Implementing the Air Pollution Control (Fuel Restriction) (Amendment) Regulation 2008 from 1 October 2008 to mandate all industrial and commercial processes to use ultra-low sulphur diesel.

- Completing the comprehensive study to review Hong Kong's Air Quality Objectives and develop a long-term strategy on air quality management, followed by extensive public consultation and engagement. Based on the initial findings of the review, we will consider adopting Interim Target 1 of the Air Quality Guidelines released by the World Health Organization as Hong Kong's new Air Quality Objectives.
- Undertaking a comprehensive consultancy study on climate change to assess its impact on Hong Kong and recommend suitable strategies to enhance further our existing adaptation and mitigation measures.
- Continuing to implement the initiatives in "A Policy Framework for the Management of Municipal Solid Waste in Hong Kong (2005-2014)" by –
 - (a) extending the territory-wide source separation of waste programme to promote waste recovery both at home and at work;
 - (b) implementing the amended Building (Refuse Storage and Material Recovery Chambers and Refuse Chutes) Regulations requiring the provision of a refuse storage and recovery room on each floor of new residential buildings;
 - (c) monitoring the operation of Phase 1 of EcoPark;
 - (d) conducting baseline survey and planning for consultation on options for municipal solid waste charging;

- (e) implementing the landfill extension schemes upon completion of feasibility and environmental impact assessment studies; and
 - (f) carrying out of feasibility and environmental impact assessment studies for the Integrated Waste Management Facilities.
- Implementing an environmental levy on plastic shopping bags, as the first mandatory Producer Responsibility Scheme under the Product Eco-responsibility Ordinance, with a view to reducing their indiscriminate use.
 - Upgrading the Chemical Waste Treatment Centre in 2009-10 to meet the latest air-emission standards of the EU.
 - Continuing to carry out detailed planning work for the development of sludge treatment facility to avoid the disposal of large amount of sewage sludge at landfills.
 - Continuing to deliver inert construction and demolition materials to the Mainland for reclamation purposes. We will liaise with the Mainland authorities to identify more possible sites for their reuse.
 - Advancing the disinfection of the wastewater from Stage 1 of the Harbour Area Treatment Scheme to 2009 while implementing Stage 2 in phases with the aim of completing Stage 2A within 2014. Based on the results of a review in 2010-11, we will decide on the timing for building the biological treatment plant under Stage 2B.

- Overseeing the implementation of the pilot scheme on management agreement and Public-Private-Partnership promulgated under the New Nature Conservation Policy, with the objective of enhancing conservation of ecologically important habitats on private land.
- Continuing the public engagement process for the Sustainable Development Strategy for Hong Kong, with the aim of encouraging greater public awareness of and participation in this process.
- Recommending the Environment and Conservation Fund to support projects in the following new areas in order to further promote public awareness on environmental protection and strengthen international and regional collaboration to address environmental challenges –
 - (a) support greening projects for schools, community buildings and charitable organisations;
 - (b) support energy audits and installation projects for buildings to promote energy conservation. We will invite suitable organisations (namely NGOs, professional organisations, universities, etc.) to develop and implement energy conservation projects for selected buildings, elderly homes, etc;
 - (c) extend the funding of the source separation of waste programme to commercial buildings. We will also set aside money for the Environmental Campaign Committee for funding the provision of recycling bins to schools and estates to further improve waste recycling in the community;

- (d) we will set aside \$50 million to support projects from the District Councils and community groups to implement district-based projects on greening, energy efficient installation and waste reduction; and
 - (e) support projects in conserving and enhancing the biodiversity of ecologically important sites.
- Introducing a Food Safety Bill to provide for new food safety control tools. The Bill will include a mandatory registration scheme for food importers and distributors, enhanced food traceability measures and tightened controls for imported food.
 - Introducing legislation to provide for a set of comprehensive and clear food safety standards for pesticide residues and veterinary drug residues in food that meet Hong Kong's needs.
 - Continuing the programme to convert all aqua privies into flushing toilets in phases by 2012-13.
 - Tightening up the regulatory framework for poultry and animals for the purpose of enhancing public health and food safety.
 - Formulating measures to promote sustainable development of the fishing industry and to conserve fisheries resources in Hong Kong waters.
 - Introducing legislation to control the abstraction of seawater from the coastal waters for keeping live seafood to enhance food safety.
 - Reviewing proposals on the regulation of restricted dining places to safeguard public health.

- Exploring how to co-operate with the Mainland authorities on using latest information technology application to ensure effective tracing of food along the production chain and achieve better food safety management through control at source.
- Reviewing the policies related to the provision of cemeteries, columbaria and crematoria facilities and striving to provide more facilities to meet future demand.
- Continuing to enrich cultural and recreational facilities taking into account community needs, including the implementation of suitable projects of the former Urban Council and Regional Council.
- Continuing to pursue the planning of the development of a Multi-purpose Stadium Complex in Kai Tak, including firming up the project scope and carrying out the technical feasibility study for the project.
- Encouraging the business sector to support the National Sports Associations in organising international major sports events in order to strengthen Hong Kong's position as the sports events capital in Asia.
- Identifying and designating support for "up-and-coming" sports, so as to enhance Hong Kong's medal hope in the international sports arena.
- Continuing to work with stakeholders on measures to further enhance the support to elite athletes as they prepare for the participation in the 2010 Asian Games and the 2012 Olympic Games.

- Continuing to facilitate the re-development of the Hong Kong Sports Institute in order to provide world-class training facilities for local athletes.
- Developing and implementing a holistic strategy to promote wider participation in sports by people of all age groups.
- Making preparation in full gear for the 5th East Asian Games in 2009. Collaborating with the sports sector to provide competition venues of international standards, encourage community involvement in sports activities and the Games, thereby enhancing our sporting culture.
- Planning and organising the 10th meeting of the Greater Pearl River Delta Co-operation Forum in Hong Kong in early 2009 to continue our efforts to build the regional cultural network in the PRD.
- Supporting the Hong Kong Arts Development Council in establishing the first Hong Kong Arts Community Fund to garner public and corporate support for culture and the arts.
- Devoting attention to the preservation and development of Cantonese opera as a local indigenous art form, and facilitating the promotion of major arts and cultural events and festivals in Hong Kong, so as to highlight our status as an international city.
- Implementing the recommendations of the Committee on Performing Arts with a view to enhancing the operation and management of cultural services and venues, rationalising the use of existing performance venues through the venue partnership scheme and identifying alternative arts venues to address the venue shortage problem.

- Implementing the recommendations of the Committee on Museums through various improvement measures with a view to enhancing the management and operation of public museums.
- Formulating strategies and measures for the development of library facilities and services to achieve the broader cultural mission of the Hong Kong Public Libraries.
- Commissioning an agency to compile a comprehensive inventory of Hong Kong's intangible cultural heritage in accordance with the requirement of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage with a view to strengthening their preservation and promotion in Hong Kong.
- Conducting more publicity to encourage owners' corporations to procure third party risks insurance as soon as possible for the benefit of property owners.
- Continuing the study on long-term options for better meeting demands for emergency ambulance services.
- Promoting the use of environment-friendly buses by implementing the provision added in the new bus franchises on the adoption of the latest commercially available and proven environment-friendly technologies for acquiring new buses, encouraging bus companies to deploy cleaner vehicles along busy corridors, including as appropriate the adoption of environment-friendly measures as a criterion in selecting operators for new bus route packages and enhancing bus service rationalisation to reduce roadside

air pollution, noise nuisance, traffic congestion and energy consumption.

- Continuing to consider measures to regulate traffic, including fiscal and traffic management means, with a view to reducing congestion along major transport corridors and to consult the community on the proposals.
- Promoting sustainable public housing developments by designing for green and healthy living, and ensuring effective and rational use of housing resources.