
Chapter 2

Quality City And Quality Life

Preamble

To become our country's most advanced city, Hong Kong needs to promote economic development and also maintain a quality city life. Environmental protection is now a global concern, especially when the problem of global warming has become increasingly serious. We will introduce various environmental protection measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and tighten the emission standards of pollutants. The Government will also join hands with the public and the business sector to promote various environmental conservation measures. This is a long-term continuing commitment, which requires our sustained and persistent efforts to bear fruit. The Government is taking the lead in vigorously promoting environmental protection as an important social value. In addition, heritage conservation has become an issue of utmost public concern in recent years. Our efforts in heritage conservation will go beyond the preservation of buildings. We will take it a step further by considering their revitalisation and draw up plans in the district-wide context. We will also enhance our communication and interaction with the districts in future. Food safety is also integral to quality life. We will work to ensure food safety through improvements to legislation, more vigorous law enforcement and enhanced food tracing.

New Initiatives

We will:

- Promote a culture of innovation, technology and design to the general public, particularly the younger generation to support the development of creative industry.
- Adopt a new policy statement on heritage conservation and implement a package of measures to progressively achieve the stated objectives.
- Require heritage impact assessments to be conducted for public works projects at the project inception stage with a view to avoiding interference with historic sites or buildings or where this is unavoidable, to mitigate the impacts.
- Intensify and expedite adaptive re-use of government-owned historic buildings and turn these into unique cultural landmarks through a special scheme involving non-governmental organisations.
- Put in place appropriate incentive to promote and facilitate the preservation, including maintenance, of historic buildings in private ownership.
- Establish an office of a Commissioner for Heritage in the Development Bureau to co-ordinate work on the heritage conservation and to provide the focal point for local and overseas networking.

- Enhance collaboration with the Urban Renewal Authority (URA) and the Hong Kong Housing Society in area improvement schemes to preserve local characteristics.
- Create more opportunities for involving stakeholders and members of the public in heritage conservation and area improvement work.
- Expedite capital works projects which will improve the quality of living, such as extending the development of Greening Master Plans (GMPs) to the New Territories, launching the final stage of a comprehensive replacement and rehabilitation of water mains programme and developing comprehensive cycle tracks in the New Territories.
- Progressively stipulate in all outline zoning plans clear development restrictions on plot ratio, site coverage and/or building height where justified to improve the living environment.
- Review the approved schemes of property development projects at Nam Cheong and Yuen Long Stations along the West Rail with a view to lowering their development intensity.
- Develop a strategy for the improvement of the Yuen Long Town Nullah to enhance the local environment quality and the ecological value of the nullahs.
- Devise a strategy to deal with natural hillside catchments known to be susceptible to potential landslides and which are close to buildings and public facilities, based on a risk-based ranking system to set priority.

- Consult the public on the proposal to mandate compliance with Building Energy Codes to improve energy efficiency and conservation in buildings.
- Take the Energy Efficiency (Labelling of Products) Bill through the legislative process with a view to rolling out the first phase of the Mandatory Energy Efficiency Labelling Scheme within 2008. Planning for the coverage of its second phase will also start in the year.
- Enhance the operation of the Environment and Conservation Fund to promote collaboration with relevant local and international bodies in projects to raise HKSAR's profile as a leading green city as well as to strengthen international and regional collaboration to address environmental challenges.
- Legislate for Producer Responsibility Schemes and, in accordance with the "polluter pays" principle, introduce the first scheme in the form of an environmental levy on plastic shopping bags to address their indiscriminate use.
- Encourage Hong Kong-owned factories in the Pearl River Delta (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, through launching a five-year programme on professional and technical support to be implemented by Hong Kong Productivity Council.
- Initiate 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.

- Further reduce the duty rate for Euro V diesel to \$0.56 per litre for a period of two years to encourage early supply of this more environment-friendly fuel with 80% less sulphur content than ultra-low sulphur diesel on the local market. As there is no technical barrier for all existing diesel vehicles to migrate to Euro V diesel, the duty concession would facilitate adopting Euro V standard as the statutory standard for motor vehicle diesel made available in Hong Kong. We would review this measure before making the standard mandatory in 2009, in tandem with the European Union (EU).
- Promote the use of biodiesel by committing to a duty-free policy and develop specifications on its use as motor vehicle fuel.
- Encourage ferry operators to switch to cleaner fuel.
- Conduct consultation on mandating the use of ultra-low sulphur diesel in all industrial and commercial processes.
- Formulate the Food Safety Ordinance to further enhance the regulatory framework on food in Hong Kong.
- Establish a set of comprehensive registration system for food importers and distributors to enhance food tracing.
- Formulate a set of comprehensive and clear food safety standards that fits Hong Kong's specific situation.
- Convert all aqua privies into flushing toilets in phases by 2012-13.

On-going Initiatives

We are:

- 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 new support measures, including funding the production of small-to-medium budget films through the Film Development Fund and implementing recommendations from the Film Development Council.
- Enhancing efforts to incorporate elements of design and creativity into teacher development programmes, learning and teaching resources, student learning experiences and student assessment with a view to nurturing creativity among primary and secondary students.
- Facilitating the development of creative industries through efforts to promote culture and the arts, including supporting the operation of a creative arts centre at the former Shek Kip Mei factory building to help nurture budding artists.

- Reviewing the optimal arrangement for preserving the Central Police Station, Victoria Prison and the former Central Magistracy Compound with a view to transforming these historic buildings into unique cultural landmarks.
- Continuing to achieve the objective of decking 16 sections of nullahs by 2014 to improve the living environment.
- Mapping out a long-term strategy for Total Water Management in Hong Kong, aligning and strengthening on-going activities in accordance with the long-term strategy.
- Expediting the reprovisioning of the Sha Tin Water Treatment Works, through a modified implementation strategy that will result in a more reliable and balanced water supply system.
- Continuing to promote the wider use of energy efficient devices and adoption of renewable energy systems in public works projects.
- Conducting a study on the general strategy for replacement of aged electrical and mechanical installations on government premises to meet modern day requirements, including the wider use of environment-friendly installations.
- Continuing to develop and implement GMPs for urban areas by mid-2009.
- Developing a performance-based regulatory system to facilitate modern and innovative building design.
- Completing the engagement process with stakeholders and finalizing the proposals on a 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. We will introduce amendments to the Buildings Ordinance in the 2007-08 legislative session to implement the minor works control regime.

- 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 the next term of the Legislative Council as early as possible.
- Working closely with the Hong Kong Housing Society and the 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 initiating a review of the Drainage Master Plans for the 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 slopes and conduct safety-screening for another 300 private slopes in the coming year.

- 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.
- Continuing to discuss with the two power companies the terms of the new Scheme of Control Agreements, including to put in place an effective mechanism to ensure reduced emission and to lower the permitted return of the companies so as to lower electricity tariffs. We will take into account public views received during the two rounds of public consultation on “Future Development of the Electricity Market in Hong Kong” in taking forward our medium term target of market liberalisation, including the establishment of a new regulatory framework.
- Tightening progressively the caps on the total emissions of power companies and requiring them to maximise the use of natural gas in power generation.
- Continuing to monitor the progress of the two power companies in implementing pilot commercial-scale wind energy projects for public demonstration and evaluation purposes and promoting the wider application of renewable energy.
- Advancing the disinfection of the wastewater from Stage 1 of the Harbour Area Treatment Scheme to 2009 while continuing to implement 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.
- Continuing to implement “the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Implementation Plan” for meeting the obligations under the

Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants. We will introduce subsidiary legislation into the Legislative Council with a view to commencing operation of the Hazardous Chemicals Control Ordinance in 2008. Recommending to the Central Government the extension of the Rotterdam Convention into HKSAR to further control hazardous chemicals.

- Completing surveys of the effluents of the remaining 26 trades under the Trade Effluent Surcharge scheme by the end of 2007. We aim to make any necessary adjustments to the scheme so as to equitably apply the “polluter pays” principle to the provision of sewage services in early 2008.
- 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.
- Continuing with the implementation of the Regional Air Quality Management Plan with the Guangdong Provincial Government to reduce the emission of four major air pollutants in the PRD to reach the agreed levels by 2010.
- Undertaking a comprehensive study to review Hong Kong’s Air Quality Objectives and develop a long-term strategy on air quality management, followed by extensive consultation and public engagement.
- 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 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.
- Considering the introduction of a statutory ban on idling engines in the light of the outcomes of public consultation.
- Providing incentives to encourage owners of pre-Euro and Euro I diesel commercial vehicles to replace their old vehicles with vehicles compliant with the prevalent emission requirements for newly registered vehicles.
- Encouraging the use of environment-friendly private petrol cars by reduction in first registration tax.
- Continuing to implement the initiatives in “A Policy Framework for the Management of Municipal Solid Waste in Hong Kong (2005-2014)” by extending the territory-wide source separation of waste programme, pursuing the proposed amendment of Building (Refuse Storage and Material Recovery Chambers and Refuse Chutes) Regulations to include a mandatory requirement on the provision of a refuse storage and recovery room on each floor of new residential buildings to facilitate material recovery activities, awarding tenancies for the second batch of EcoPark, planning for consultation on options for municipal solid waste charging and carrying out feasibility and environmental impact assessment studies on landfill extensions.

- Upgrading the Chemical Waste Treatment Centre in 2008-09 to meet the latest air-emission standards of the EU.
- 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 based on community needs, including the implementation of suitable projects of the former Urban Council and Regional Council.
- Planning the development of a Multi-purpose Stadium Complex in Kai Tak.

- Providing a platform for and assisting the sports sector to collaborate with business sector in organising international sports events.
- Identifying and designating support for “up-and-coming” sports, so as to enhance Hong Kong’s medal hope in the international sports arena.
- Working with stakeholders on measures to further enhance the support to elite athletes particularly upon their retirement.
- Facilitating the re-development of the Hong Kong Sports Institute.
- Developing and implementing a holistic strategy to promote wider participation in sports by people of all age groups.
- Preparing in full gear for the 2009 5th East Asian Games. Providing competition venues of international standards, encouraging community involvement in sports activities and the Games, thereby enhancing our sporting culture.
- Developing a cultural, arts and sports network in the PRD, especially in the light of the fourth phase of the Mainland and Hong Kong Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement (CEPA IV) liberalisations.
- Encouraging funding from the business sector and individuals to support the arts and cultural activities in Hong Kong.
- 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 and developing new venues to address the venue shortage problem.
- Implementing the recommendations of the Committee on Museums and the Committee on Libraries, devising plans to enhance the management and operation of public museum services, and strengthening the role and functions of public libraries in the promotion of reading and appreciation of literary arts.
- Commissioning an agency to, after making reference to the pilot phase of the study, 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.
- Implementing the amended Building Management Ordinance and putting in place the associated subsidiary legislation for the benefit of owners' corporations and 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 the provision of environment-friendly measures as appropriate 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.