
Chapter 2

Quality City And Quality Life

Preamble

The development of Hong Kong into a knowledge-based economy requires talent from around the world, and a quality city life is essential to attracting talent. 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. In the past two years, 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 continue 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. We will also continue to push ahead with on-going initiatives in culture and the arts, information, creativity, greening, and heritage preservation, etc., and will propose new initiatives to make Hong Kong a more attractive quality city.

We will also 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:

- Commence the mid-term review of the two commercial sound broadcasting service licences with a view to gauging the public feedback on the radio services provided by the incumbent licensees.
- Facilitate new generation film directors to promote their production projects to the Mainland and Taiwan and explore co-operation opportunities through arranging business matching visits.
- Review the arrangements of telephone directory services to facilitate effective use of resources by fixed network operators to maximise consumer benefits.
- Provide support to projects that are conducive to the development of local creative industries through the \$300 million CreateSmart Initiative.
- Work with creative industries sector to develop a creative industries cluster.
- Seek to showcase the achievements of Hong Kong's creative industries outside Hong Kong. We will support the local publication industry to participate in the Frankfurt Book Fair and promote the sector at one of the most prestigious international events of the industry. We will also introduce measures to support our creative talents to participate in overseas competitions.

- Work with our creative industries to organise a wide range of activities in Shanghai during the six-month period of the Shanghai Expo to promote our creative sector in the Mainland.
- Work with our creative industries to introduce trainee and internship programmes to help train new blood for the creative sector.
- Enhance the creative climate in the community by introducing an open competition for the development of the corporate identity of CreateHK and for the Government to set a model in the use of local creativity for the private sector to follow.
- Support the organisation of a major regional forum to stimulate creativity among our youth population and encourage them to make a difference and to establish Hong Kong as a capital for holding signature creativity events in the region.
- Support a wide range of events to complement our annual Business of Design Week to be held in December each year to build up public awareness of design, encourage community participation and enhance Hong Kong's position in the international design community.
- Seek to set up a digital distribution network to facilitate distribution of film from overseas sources to local digital cinemas through electronic means.
- Support a project to incorporate various creative industries elements such as design and architecture in the secondary school curriculum to develop students' appreciation of and interest in creativity.

- Establish a Centre for Creative Science and Technology in the Hong Kong Science Park for nurturing youngsters' interest in science and technology.
- Establish a Greening, Landscape and Tree Management Section in the Development Bureau, underpinned by a Greening and Landscape Office and a Tree Management Office, to facilitate the adoption of a holistic approach in the policy and implementation aspects of greening, landscape and tree management; to ensure more effective co-ordination across departments in their tree preservation efforts and to enhance expertise in the management of trees.
- Review the current minor works delivery system with a view to enhancing the efficiency and effectiveness of the service.
- Propose amendments to the Lift and Escalator (Safety) Ordinance with a view to enhancing lift/escalator safety.
- Introduce a voluntary "Water Efficiency Labelling Scheme" (WELS) to promote public awareness of water conservation and facilitate users' choice of water efficient plumbing fixtures and appliances.
- Relax the statutory food room requirements for licensed restaurants and factory canteens through legislative amendments.
- Follow up on the recommendations of the review on hawker licensing, including the issuing of fixed-pitch hawker licences after consultation with the relevant District Councils.

- Further strengthen our arts and cultural development by taking a three-pronged approach: (1) capacity building, (2) audience building, and (3) arts education and manpower training so as to bring arts to the people for everyone to enjoy a rich, quality life.
- Increase the greening ratio of all new public rental housing estates to at least 20%. We will also provide green roofs in low-rise buildings and provide vertical greening in some pilot projects wherever feasible.
- Work with the Guangdong authorities to map out the post-2010 emission reduction arrangements to further improve the regional air quality.
- Expand the scope of the five-year “Cleaner Production Partnership Programme” to provide professional and technical support to Hong Kong-owned factories in the PRD Region in the area of effluent reduction and control.
- Collaborate with the two power companies to launch a leasing scheme of electric vehicles by end 2010, so as to expose a wider section of the community to electric vehicle driving experience.
- Formulate and promulgate the specific arrangements for Hong Kong enterprises’ participation in Clean Development Mechanism projects in the Mainland.

- Expand green procurement in the Government by proactively applying the green specifications developed for some 60 products commonly procured by Government departments. We shall also progressively expand green procurement in the Government and devise clear green procurement guidelines for departments in order to implement the green procurement policy.
- Invite all schools to sign a green lunch charter to avoid the use of disposable containers and cutlery, and to reduce food waste. With funding support from the Environment and Conservation Fund, encourage schools to make new installations to facilitate green lunch.

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 and technology to the general public, particularly the younger generation.
- 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.
- Continuing with the mid-term review of the domestic free television programme service licences with a view to gauging public feedback on the analogue and digital services provided by the licensees.
- Promoting the development of the film industry through implementing recommendations from the Film Development Council.
- Promoting Hong Kong films to Mainland and South East Asian markets through organising film festivals and business matching activities in these places.

- Continuing with the review of the operation of the Film Development Fund aiming to implement improvement measures in 2010.
- Supporting, through the Film Development Fund, the production of a teaching kit to incorporate elements of film and animation in the new secondary school curriculum of visual arts to cultivate students' appreciation of creativity.
- Supporting, through the Film Development Fund, the Hong Kong Baptist University for procuring start-up equipment for the launching of a Film Academy in 2009.
- Engaging our creative industry in our participation in the Urban Best Practices Area Exhibition of the Shanghai Expo to be held in 2010.
- Enhancing support to the development of design, culture and creativity in the areas of teacher professional development programmes, learning and teaching resources, student learning experiences and student assessment across the school curricula so as to enhance primary and secondary students' creativity.
- Continuing our support for initiatives to nurture creative talent. We will continue to promote the Jockey Club Creative Arts Centre opened in March 2008 to the arts community and the public.
- Formulating marketing and communications strategies for launching the updated Brand Hong Kong in 2010 locally, in the region and internationally. In particular, we will ride on the Shanghai Expo to be held in May 2010 to promote our updated Brand.

- Working closely with the six selected non-profit-making organisations (NPOs) to implement projects in the first batch of buildings under the “Revitalising Historic Buildings Through Partnership Scheme” (Revitalisation Scheme).
- Launching the second batch of buildings under the Revitalisation Scheme for adaptive re-use of five historic buildings through the operation of social enterprises by NPOs.
- Planning to invite commercial tenders for the revitalisation and adaptive re-use of the Haw Par Mansion.
- Taking forward the conservation and revitalisation of the Central Police Station Compound in partnership with the Hong Kong Jockey Club.
- Proceeding to invite proposals from NPOs for the revitalisation and adaptive re-use of the original site of the Central School (i.e. the Former Police Married Quarters Site on Hollywood Road) for the promotion of creative industries.
- Continuing with the development of a comprehensive cycle track network in the New Territories to improve the quality of living.
- Continuing to press ahead with the detailed design and construction works for the comprehensive water mains replacement and rehabilitation programme.
- Continuing with the decking and/or landscaping of 16 sections of nullahs with a view to completion by 2014 to improve the living environment.

- Taking forward the preliminary design of the improvement work for the Yuen Long Town Centre Nullah to enhance the local environment quality and the ecological value of the nullah.
- Continuing to promote the wider use of energy efficient devices and adoption of renewable energy systems in public works projects.
- Implementing the greening works recommended in the Greening Master Plans (GMPs) for remaining urban areas. Thereafter, we will move onto the preparation of GMPs for the New Territories.
- Finalising a policy review on the provision of public open space in private developments, including proposed management guidelines to be promulgated for the operation of public open space in private developments.
- Collaborating with the Council for Sustainable Development to consult the public on appropriate measures to be taken to reduce the bulk of buildings and foster a better and more sustainable built environment.
- Developing a performance-based regulatory system to facilitate modern and innovative building design.
- Implementing the minor works control system in accordance with the Buildings (Amendment) Ordinance 2008 and the Building (Minor Works) Regulation which will streamline statutory procedures for processing minor works in order to improve building control and building safety.

- Preparing for the introduction of a bill on a mandatory building inspection scheme and a mandatory window inspection scheme to require private building owners to inspect their buildings and windows regularly into Legislative Council in 2009-10.
- Working closely with the Hong Kong Housing Society and the Urban Renewal Authority (URA) to implement the \$2-billion “Operation Building Bright” to assist owners of old and dilapidated target buildings to conduct repair and maintenance works. 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 and aiming to complete the review of the Drainage Master Plans for northern and northwestern New Territories in early 2011.
- Commencing the Landslip Prevention and Mitigation Programme covering man-made slopes as well as natural terrains posing risks to dovetail with the successful completion of the Landslip Preventive Measures Programme.
- Working closely with the URA on area improvement schemes in Wan Chai and Mong Kok aimed at preserving local characteristics as well as beautifying the area.
- 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.

- Finalising the revised scheme of property development of a reduced development intensity at Yuen Long Station along the West Rail.
- Strengthening our work on harbourfront planning and implementing harbourfront enhancement initiatives for the enjoyment of our residents and visitors alike, with the participation of the community, as well as ensuring that our planning, land use and urban design are in line with our stated mission to protect the Victoria Harbour.
- Continuing with the Urban Renewal Strategy Review with a view to building consensus upon completion of the review by mid-2010.
- Providing one-stop advisory and co-ordination services through the newly established Development Opportunities Office to land development proposals by non-government organisations (NGOs) and the private sector that will bring broader economic and social benefits to society.
- Working with the Guangdong authorities to formulate a strategy to transform the PRD Region into a green and quality living area.
- Introducing a bill for the mandatory implementation of the Building Energy Codes to the Legislative Council in 2009.
- Continuing to promote the building energy efficiency funding schemes, with \$150 million and \$300 million allocated by the Environment and Conservation Fund (ECF) to subsidise building owners to carry out energy-cum-carbon audits and energy efficiency projects respectively. The two funding schemes have been open for application since April 2009. Up to end September 2009, 108 funding applications, amounting to \$24.9 million have been approved.

- Implementing a comprehensive target-based green performance framework for new and existing government buildings to continue promoting environmental protection and energy conservation in government buildings.
- Implementing energy efficiency demonstration projects to demonstrate state-of-the-art energy efficient designs and technologies.
- Implementing the district cooling system at Kai Tak Development to meet the demand of air-conditioning for public and private non-domestic developments.
- Introducing amendments to the Energy Efficiency (Labelling of Products) Ordinance to the Legislative Council in 2009 for the second phase of the Mandatory Energy Efficiency Labelling Scheme.
- Promoting the replacement of incandescent light bulbs by compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs) through various means. Residential electricity account holders will receive cash coupons on CFLs. Moreover, we plan to consult the public on progressively restricting the sales of incandescent light bulbs.
- Continuing to study the issue of energy wastage of external lighting, and assess the feasibility of regulating external lighting by legislation.
- 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 tighten vehicle emission and fuel standards following the EU's practices.
- 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.
- Introducing the enabling legislation for implementing a statutory ban on idling vehicles with running engines to the Legislative Council in 2009-10.
- 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 before the lapse of the scheme by 31 March 2010.
- Encouraging the use of environment-friendly private petrol cars and commercial vehicles by reduction in first registration tax.

- Making Euro V motor vehicle fuels, with 80% less sulphur content than Euro IV motor vehicle fuels, the statutory standard.
- Promoting the use of biodiesel as a motor vehicle fuel by committing to a duty-free policy and introducing regulatory control for such use of biodiesel.
- Drawing up a proposal to control the emissions of off-road mobile sources, including implementation of statutory emission standards for mobile machinery, for trade consultation.
- Conducting a trial to study the technical feasibility of local ferries using ultra-low sulphur diesel, with a view to mapping out the way forward having regard to the findings after completion of the trial in 2010.
- Introducing legislation to accelerate the phasing out of hydrochlorofluorocarbons to meet the new phasing out schedule agreed by the Montreal Protocol in September 2007.
- Introducing legislation to 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.
- Consulting the public on the proposed new Air Quality Objectives (AQOs) and package of proposed emission control measures with a view to updating Hong Kong's AQOs and developing implementation programmes on air quality management.

- 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) monitoring the development of Phase I and Phase II of EcoPark;
 - (c) completing the baseline survey to collect information on waste generation pattern and waste management practices among different types of commercial and industrial establishments, and developing possible options for municipal solid waste charging for consultation;
 - (d) implementing the three landfill extension schemes upon completion of feasibility and environmental impact assessment studies;
 - (e) carrying out of feasibility and environmental impact assessment studies for the Integrated Waste Management Facilities; and
 - (f) carrying out feasibility and environmental impact assessment studies for the Organic Waste Treatment Facilities.

- Monitoring the implementation of the Environmental Levy Scheme on Plastic Shopping Bags, as the first mandatory Producer Responsibility Scheme under the Product Eco-responsibility Ordinance, and reviewing the effectiveness of the scheme after implementation.
- Consulting the public and stakeholders with a view to introducing a mandatory Producer Responsibility Scheme for waste electrical and electronic equipment.
- Completing the upgrading of the Chemical Waste Treatment Centre in 2010 to meet the latest EU air-emission standards.
- Commencing the construction of the sludge treatment facility in 2010-11 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.
- Commissioning the advance disinfection of the wastewater from Stage 1 of the Harbour Area Treatment Scheme by end 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.

- Seeking to designate the Geopark areas as protected areas, together with stepping up publicity and education efforts on geo-conservation, in order to better preserve Hong Kong's unique and valuable geological resources.
- Amending the Marine Parks and Marine Reserves Regulation to ban commercial fishing in marine parks for improving ecosystems in marine parks and offering better protection for marine organisms.
- 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 the support of ECF to projects in the following areas in order to further promote public awareness on environmental protection and strengthen international and regional collaboration to address environmental challenges –
 - (a) support greening/waste reduction/energy efficiency projects for schools, community buildings and charitable organisations;
 - (b) support energy audits and installation projects for buildings to promote energy conservation under the Building Energy Efficiency Funding Scheme, as well as support energy audits and energy conservation projects in NGO buildings in collaboration with the Hong Kong Council of Social Services and the two power companies;
 - (c) support the operation of two processing centres by NGOs for waste plastics and waste electrical and electronic equipment respectively at EcoPark;

- (d) support international conferences to promote exchanges amongst policy-makers, professionals as well as other stakeholders on latest developments and best practices on environment and conservation matters;
 - (e) support projects from District Councils and community groups to implement district-based projects on low carbon lifestyle promotion, energy efficient installation and waste reduction; and
 - (f) 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.
 - Promoting sustainable development of the fisheries industry and to conserve fisheries resources in Hong Kong waters including giving priority consideration to offering free training on sustainable fishing practices, and launching a pilot fish hatchery scheme.

- 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 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 assessing the mode of operation and carrying out the technical feasibility study for the project.
- Continuing to promote “Sports for all” through a number of measures, including –
 - (a) working more closely with 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.
- Implementing a holistic strategy to promote wider participation in sports by people of all age groups.
 - Continuing to facilitate the re-development of the Hong Kong Sports Institute in order to provide world-class training facilities for local athletes.
 - 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.
 - Making preparation 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.
 - Continuing to work closely with the West Kowloon Cultural District (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, and broaden Hong Kong's exchanges with other places in contemporary art and performing arts, so as to enrich people's cultural life.

- 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.
- Continuing to support the small- and medium-sized performing arts groups in using venues not managed by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department 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 WKCD facilities.
- At the district level, lining up quality cultural programmes to support the district arts festivals; launching 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.
- Continuing to support 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.
- Continuing to devote attention to the preservation and development of Cantonese opera as a local indigenous art form, and facilitate the promotion of major arts and cultural events and festivals in Hong Kong, so as to highlight our status as an international city.
- Enhancing the management and operation of public museums through various improvement measures.

- Continuing to work closely with the Hong Kong Maritime Museum to establish a representative maritime museum for Hong Kong at the Central Pier 8.
- Devoting attention to the research, preservation and promotion of Hong Kong's intangible cultural heritage.
- Formulating strategies and measures for the development of library facilities and services to achieve the broader cultural mission of the Hong Kong Public Libraries.
- Implementing the initiatives announced at the Asia Cultural Co-operation Forum 2009 with a view to fostering partnership among Governments in the Asian region and enhancing Hong Kong's position as the cultural and creative hub of Asia.
- Participating in the 11th meeting of the Greater Pearl River Delta Co-operation Forum in Macao in early 2010 to continue our efforts to build the regional cultural network in the PRD.
- 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 in the 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.
- Taking forward the pedestrian schemes in Causeway Bay, Mong Kok and Yuen Long town centre so as to create space for pedestrian movements, minimise vehicle-pedestrian conflicts and improve roadside air quality.
- Continuing with the assessment of options that are feasible in transport, financial and legal terms to improve traffic distribution among the three road harbour crossings in the light of the recommendations of the consultancy study to be completed before the end of 2009.
- Promoting sustainable public housing developments by designing for green and healthy living, and ensuring effective and rational use of housing resources.