

Works Bureau

In the past year, we have been working on 46 pledges, of which :

- we have completed 29;
- we are on schedule with 11; and
- we are pressing ahead with six on-going commitments.

The following sets out the detailed report for each main programme area.

Public Works Projects

<i>Year</i>	<i>Pledge</i>	<i>Present Position</i>
Action Completed		
1997	1. In 1998-1999, to provide management skills enhancement workshops for 650 officers who work on the Public Works Programme (PWP) to strengthen the project management culture in works departments. It will enhance the capabilities of the staff in the timely and cost-effective delivery of public works projects.	Over 650 officers have been trained to enhance their project management skills.
1997	2. To fast-track the provision of housing-related infrastructure so as to facilitate both public and private sector residential development.	We have introduced new practices to enable some pre-construction procedures to be handled in parallel.
1996	3. To continue to improve resource management in the PWP in 1997-1998 in order to keep underspending on public works projects down to around 5%.	Underspending on public works projects in 1997-1998 was below 5%.

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| 1996 | 4. | To improve in 1997-1998 value-for-money in public works contracts by undertaking value management studies on major public works projects to eliminate unnecessary costs while maintaining the necessary functions, quality and performance of the end product. | We have issued a Works Bureau Technical Circular to promulgate the implementation of value management studies to the works departments. |
| 1996 | 5. | To streamline government procedures for clearance and land resumption to ensure that land is available for projects to start on schedule. | We have introduced in April 1998 a prioritisation exercise for projects requiring land clearance and resumption. |

Quality of Service

Year

Pledge

Present Position

Action Completed

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| 1997 | 1. | To draw up in 1998 a comprehensive plan for the long-term maintenance of the watermains of the Water Supplies Department based on the results of the Asset Management Study, which aims to map digitally all the Department's underground assets (mainly pipes) and to assess the overall condition of the network, future capital investment and operating costs. | We have formulated a comprehensive and systematic asset management plan to replace and rehabilitate aged watermains in stages. |
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| 1997 | 2. | To complete in 1998 a study on the benchmarking of the services of the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department in comparison with the private sector. The results of the study will assist the Department in organising its activities so that it will be able to operate successfully in a competitive environment. | We have concluded the benchmarking study which has identified a number of areas for further improvement and enhancement. |
| 1997 | 3. | To examine in 1998 the feasibility of setting up an Operating Services Account within the Architectural Services Department which will provide more management information on the efficiency and cost-effectiveness of its services. | The feasibility examination has been completed. The findings reveal that only marginal benefit will accrue from the proposal. The Department will study other options to improve its efficiency and cost-effectiveness. |
| 1997 | 4. | To adopt more stringent quality assurance standards in laboratory testing and ground investigation services for public works projects in 1998. | More stringent specifications have been included in laboratory testing term contracts and a field testing service has been provided in the urban area. |
| 1996 | 5. | To improve traffic mobility in 1997 by introducing a computerised road opening works management system in Highways Department to ensure that such projects are well co-ordinated, carried out efficiently and completed on time. | The management system was fully implemented in October 1997 as scheduled. |
| 1996 | 6. | To strengthen quality management systems in public works projects by ensuring that all major consultants and contractors are certified to International Organisation for Standardisation (ISO) 9000 standards. | All contractors and consultants undertaking major public works projects have been ISO certified. |

The Airport Core Programme

<i>Year</i>	<i>Pledge</i>	<i>Present Position</i>
Action Completed		
1995	<p>1. To continue to monitor closely the progress of the ten Airport Core Programme (ACP) projects, costing a total of \$158.2 billion; to ensure that, as far as possible,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – the seven ACP projects directly funded by the Government are completed before 30 June 1997; – the Western Harbour Crossing is completed before 30 June 1997; – the new airport at Chek Lap Kok will open in April 1998; and – the Airport Railway will start operation no later than June 1998. 	<p>All the seven Government-funded projects have been completed.</p> <p>The Western Harbour Crossing was completed and opened to traffic in April 1997.</p> <p>The new airport opened in July 1998.</p> <p>The Tung Chung Line and the Airport Express Line opened in June and July 1998 respectively.</p>
1994	<p>2. To proceed with the new airport passenger terminal building and associated airfield works.</p>	<p>The new airport passenger terminal and the associated airfield works have been completed.</p>
1994	<p>3. To build the infrastructure for Tung Chung New Town, including roads, drains, sewerage and watermains, in 1995-1996.</p>	<p>All infrastructure items in Tung Chung New Town have been completed.</p>

Slope Safety

<i>Year</i>	<i>Pledge</i>	<i>Present Position</i>
Action Completed		
1997	1. In 1998, to plan for a new ten-year Landslip Preventive Measures (LPM) programme to upgrade another 2 500 substandard slopes after the current five-year programme is completed in 2000.	We have drawn up a new ten-year LPM programme for implementation from 2000.
1997	2. In 1998, to maintain regularly the slopes newly assigned to Government works departments under the Systematic Identification of Maintenance Responsibility of Man-made Slopes in Hong Kong (SIMAR) study, as well as those already assigned, to prevent them from deteriorating, and to improve their stability by undertaking preventive maintenance.	Various government departments have taken up the maintenance responsibility of some 18 000 slopes assigned to them under the SIMAR study. Consultants have been appointed to assist in inspecting the assigned slopes.
1997	3. To improve in 1998 geological services related to slope safety and engineering development, including geological investigations of landslips.	We have improved our geological services by further developing computerised information systems to include geological and terrain data for the whole of Hong Kong and information on all serious landslides in the 1997 wet season.
1997	4. To step up public education on slope safety in 1998 to stress the importance of maintenance of private slopes and drainage channels, and other precautionary action during rainstorms.	We have strengthened public education on slope safety by producing new television Announcements of Public Interest (API) and education kits.

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| 1996 | 5. | To carry out a second round of inspections of roadside slopes in January 1997, update our slope inventory and improve maintenance, thereby enhancing the safety of road users. | The second round of inspections covering 1 300 roadside slopes has been completed. The inventory of roadside slopes has been updated and the maintenance programme enhanced. |
| 1996 | 6. | To complete an initial screening of the 400 slopes adjacent to schools by the end of 1996, and to further investigate the screened slopes to identify those which require upgrading. | We have completed the investigation of the screened slopes and started upgrading government slopes. |
| 1994 | 7. | To update our information on slopes to pinpoint areas where action is most urgently needed. | We have completed the cataloguing exercise for all sizable man-made slopes with all the pre-1977 slopes prioritised for maintenance action. |

Action in Progress : On Schedule

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| 1997 | 8. | In 1998, to complete a preliminary assessment of the landslide hazards associated with natural hillsides and to conduct a detailed risk assessment, to develop appropriate measures to mitigate the risk in these areas. | The preliminary assessment has been completed. Detailed studies on hazards and risks have commenced as scheduled. |
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Good progress has been made with the following commitments in the past year. We will continue to work on them on an on-going basis.

- | <i>Year</i> | <i>Pledge</i> |
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| 1996 | 9. To implement the remaining two of the recommendations made by Professor Morgenstern as on-going long-term undertakings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – development of an integrated approach to slope stability assessment; and – research into improved means of site characterisation. |

- 1995 10. To identify systematically the responsibility for maintaining all the man-made slopes in the territory.
- 1995 11. To encourage the inspection by private owners of buried drains and water pipes on private lots which may affect slope stability.
- 1995 12. To increase the inspection and repair of public drains and water supply pipes which may affect slope stability.

Water Supply

<i>Year</i>	<i>Pledge</i>	<i>Present Position</i>
Action Completed		
1997	1. To hold further negotiations with the Guangdong Authority in 1998 to update the provisions in the long-term agreement entered into in 1989 for the supply of water in the future.	We signed a formal agreement with the Guangdong Authority in July 1998 to reduce the scheduled annual supply between 1998 and 2004.
1997	2. To treat and dispose of effluent during annual cleaning of service reservoirs in 1998 in order to comply with the environmental requirements as set out under the Water Pollution Control Ordinance.	We have introduced a new cleaning method to treat and dispose of effluent from service reservoirs.
1996	3. To make the necessary organisational changes following the first phase of the management review of the Water Supplies Department so that the Department can operate more flexibly and efficiently. To complete the second phase of the management review in 1997.	The second phase of the management review has been concluded. All the recommendations put forth in the two phases of the review have been implemented.

Action in Progress : On Schedule

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| 1997 | 4. | To enhance the water quality monitoring system in 1998 in order to ensure compliance with the latest version of the World Health Organisation's Guidelines for Drinking Water Quality. | New instruments have been commissioned and improvement methods have been selected for validation. We will implement a programme to enhance the monitoring system by end 1998. |
| 1996 | 5. | To work on Phase 3 of a three-phase strategy to map digitally all of Water Supplies Department's underground assets and to assess the overall condition of the network, future capital investment and operating costs. | Actual data conversion work under Phase 3 of the strategy is being implemented for completion by end 1998. |

Construction Site Safety and High Quality Management

<i>Year</i>	<i>Pledge</i>	<i>Present Position</i>
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Action Completed

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| 1997 | 1. | To appoint a consultant in 1998 to review our present system of assessment of safety performance of our contractors. | The review was completed in September 1998. The consultant recommends that our safety assessment system should be better integrated, and that our computer module should be upgraded for handling more analysis on accident statistics. |
| 1997 | 2. | To strengthen the staffing of Departmental Safety Advisory Units in 1998 so as to improve site safety records, to implement safety measures and to provide safety input on high-risk construction contracts. | We have strengthened the staffing of the Departmental Safety Advisory Units to provide better supervision of high-risk construction contracts. |

Action in Progress : On Schedule

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| 1997 | 3. | In 1998, to work towards the inclusion of all new contracts in the Pay for Safety Scheme. | An additional 78 new works contracts has been included in the Scheme since October 1997, representing 84% of all new contracts awarded. |
| 1997 | 4. | In 1998, to monitor the safety performance of public works contractors to ensure that accident rates remain below our target of 60 accidents per 1 000 workers per year. | The accident rates for both ACP and non-ACP contracts have been maintained below the target rate since October 1997. |
| 1997 | 5. | To conduct construction site safety-related promotional activities in 1998. | Site safety award schemes have been organised for departmental staff and construction workers. In addition, two seminars on promoting site safety have been organised since January 1998. |
| 1997 | 6. | To strengthen site inspections of builder's lifts and tower working platforms in 1998. | Additional staff have been assigned to reinforce the Inspection Unit since August 1998. Site inspections have been stepped up. |
| 1997 | 7. | In 1998, to invite more government and private sector construction sites to join the next phases of the Considerate Contractors Site Award Scheme. | The number of government and private sector sites joining the Scheme has increased from 39 and 10 by end 1997 to 43 and 12 by September 1998 respectively. |

Good progress has been made with the following commitment in the past year. We will continue to work on it on an on-going basis.

Year

Pledge

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| 1993 | 8. | To work together with the private sector, through the Construction Advisory Board, to transform safety attitudes throughout the workforce. | |
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Construction Standards

<i>Year</i>	<i>Pledge</i>	<i>Present Position</i>
Action Completed		
1997	1. To complete in 1998 the consultancy exercise on the alignment of standards for Unplasticised Polyvinyl Chloride (UPVC) pipes and fittings.	The consultancy study was completed in July 1998. The final report recommends a programme for aligning UPVC standards.
1997	2. In 1998, to make necessary preparations for the setting up of a central construction standardisation body to oversee and co-ordinate the development of standards for construction and engineering services; to gradually strengthen the secretariat of the Construction Standards Committee to carry out this task.	We have formulated a framework for the central construction standardisation body and strengthened the secretariat of the Construction Standards Committee.
1995	3. Through the Construction Advisory Board, to encourage the construction industry in Hong Kong to work with their Mainland counterparts to recognise common technical standards based upon internationally accepted specifications and norms.	We have arranged exchange seminars and visits to the Mainland for the local construction industry to help establish mutual recognition of technical standards applied in Hong Kong and in the Mainland.

Action in Progress : On Schedule

1997	4. To review comprehensively the list of construction standards used in Hong Kong in 1998.	A review of the list of construction standards commenced in July 1998 for completion by December 1998.
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| 1997 | 5. | To hold further Mainland-Hong Kong seminars on engineering and construction standards and other appropriate topics in early 1998. | An exchange seminar was held in Qingdao in March 1998 to promote co-operation between the Mainland and Hong Kong construction industries. A plan has been drawn up for more seminars to be held. |
| 1997 | 6. | In 1998, to strengthen our participation in standards development activities organised by the international standards bodies such as the International Organisation for Standardisation (ISO) and the International Electromechanical Commission (IEC) and regional bodies such as Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation (APEC) and Pacific Area Standards Congress (PASC). | In the first nine months of 1998, we have established contact with various international and regional standards organisations through different channels such as our participation in the Second APEC Conference in Standards and Conformance. |

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- | <i>Year</i> | | <i>Pledge</i> |
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| 1997 | 7. | To establish and maintain close contact with our counterparts in the Mainland. |