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## **ACE Paper 26/2017**

*For information on 4 December 2017*

# **Improving the Water Quality in Hong Kong**

## **Background Note**

### **PURPOSE**

This paper provides background information to the “Improving the Water Quality in Hong Kong” (*ACE Paper 25/2017*) prepared by the Environmental Protection Department (“EPD”) and Drainage Services Department (“DSD”) for discussion at the Advisory Council on the Environment (“ACE”) meeting on 4 December 2017.

### **BACKGROUND**

2. The water quality of Hong Kong has been significantly improved over the past three decades. The Government has been taking actions to improve the beach, river and marine water quality, which has resulted in an increase in the number of clean beaches and a decrease in the number of polluted rivers over recent years. The implementation of Harbour Area Treatment Scheme (HATS) has also significantly reduced key pollutants.

3. In 2014, ACE was consulted on the proposal to tackle near shore water pollution problems of Victoria Harbour, and EPD’s plan to commission a consultancy study to further enhance the quality of coastal waters of Victoria Harbour. In 2015, ACE was briefed on the latest progress of the implementation of HATS Stage 2A in further improving the collection and treatment of sewage generated around Victoria Harbour and the overall water quality of the harbour area. A table setting out the relevant papers and minutes of meetings is appended below for Members’ easy reference.

Meeting date	Relevant documents
The 83 <sup>rd</sup> ACE Meeting held on 26 March 2001 to discuss the paper on “The Way Forward for Sewage Treatment for the Harbour Area”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <a href="#">ACE Paper 8/2001</a></li> <li>● <a href="#">Confirmed Minutes of Meeting</a></li> </ul>
The 97 <sup>th</sup> ACE Meeting held on 17 June 2002 to discuss the paper on “Environmental and Engineering Feasibility Study for the Harbour Area Treatment Scheme – Proposed Water Quality Criteria”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <a href="#">ACE Paper 23/2002</a></li> <li>● <a href="#">Confirmed Minutes of Meeting</a></li> </ul>
The 101 <sup>st</sup> ACE Meeting held on 5 December 2002 to discuss the paper on “2nd Progress Report on Trials and Studies for the Harbour Area Treatment Scheme”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <a href="#">ACE Paper 31/2002</a></li> <li>● <a href="#">Confirmed Minutes of Meeting</a></li> </ul>
The 103 <sup>rd</sup> ACE Meeting held on 11 February 2003 to discuss the paper on “Beach Water Quality of Hong Kong in 2002”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <a href="#">ACE Paper 6/2003</a></li> <li>● <a href="#">Confirmed Minutes of Meeting</a></li> </ul>
The 117 <sup>th</sup> ACE Meeting held on 12 July 2004 to discuss the paper on “Way Forward for the Harbour Area Treatment Scheme (HATS) Stage 2”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <a href="#">ACE Paper 20/2004</a></li> <li>● <a href="#">Confirmed Minutes of Meeting</a></li> </ul>
The 125 <sup>th</sup> ACE Meeting held on 9 May 2005 to discuss the paper on “Way Forward for the Harbour Area Treatment Scheme (HATS) Stage 2”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <a href="#">ACE Paper 8/2005</a></li> <li>● <a href="#">Confirmed Minutes of Meeting</a></li> </ul>
The 139 <sup>th</sup> ACE Meeting held on 12 February 2007 to discuss the paper on “Proposal for Applying the Polluters-pays Principle in the Provision of Sewage Services and Progress Updated on Harbour Area Treatment Scheme Stage 2A”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <a href="#">ACE Paper 5/2007</a></li> <li>● <a href="#">Confirmed Minutes of Meeting</a></li> </ul>
The 154 <sup>th</sup> ACE Meeting held on 14 July 2008 to discuss the paper on “Harbour Area Treatment scheme (HATS) Planning Parameters for the Commencement of the Design and Construction of HATS Stage 2B”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <a href="#">ACE Paper 21/2008</a></li> <li>● <a href="#">Confirmed Minutes of Meeting</a></li> </ul>

<p>The 166<sup>th</sup> ACE Meeting on 14 December 2009 to discuss the paper on “Review and Development of Marine Water Quality Objectives - First Stage Public Engagement Exercise”</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <a href="#">ACE Paper 21/2009</a></li> <li>● <a href="#">Confirmed Minutes of Meeting</a></li> </ul>
<p>The 199<sup>th</sup> ACE Meeting held on 21 July 2014 to discuss the paper on “Further Enhancing Coastal Water Quality of Victoria Harbour”</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <a href="#">ACE Paper 4/2014</a></li> <li>● <a href="#">Confirmed Minutes of Meeting</a></li> </ul>
<p>The 210<sup>th</sup> ACE Meeting held on 9 November 2015 to discuss the paper on “Update on the implementation of Harbour Area Treatment Scheme Stage 2A”</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <a href="#">ACE Paper 15/2015</a></li> <li>● <a href="#">Confirmed Minutes of Meeting</a></li> </ul>

**ACE Secretariat**  
**December 2017**