

Advisory Council on the Environment
Nature Conservation Subcommittee

Progress Report of the Hong Kong Wetland Park
(January 2004 to July 2005)

Purpose

This paper presents the progress of the Hong Kong Wetland Park (HKWP) project at Tin Shui Wai from January 2004 to July 2005 for members' information.

Background

2. The HKWP is a purpose-built 61-hectare (610,000 square metres) facility to promote conservation, education and tourism in Hong Kong. The project comprises two phases. Phase 1 of HKWP includes a 230-square metre Exhibition Pavilion which aimed at promoting wetland conservation and publicizing the whole HKWP project. It was opened to the public in December 2000 and attracted some 100,000 visitors per year. The Park was closed on 16 May 2005 for Phase 2 development.

3. Phase 2 of HKWP Project includes the construction of a 10,000-square metre Visitor Centre with three exhibition galleries of the different themes, fabrication of exhibition items and an outdoor park. It also includes a 60-hectare Wetland Reserve with diverse re-created habitats and visitor facilities such as Wetland Discovery Centre, Bird Hides, boardwalks, seating areas and other outdoor interpretative stations. The works of Phase 2 is in progress and will be completed in early 2006.

Progress

Phase 1

4. From January 2004 to 16 May 2005, about 140,000 people visited the Exhibition Pavilion. During that period, we organized more than 400 guided

tours for more than 13,900 participants from schools and local communities.

Phase 2

Building Construction

5. The construction of Visitor Centre, Wetland Discovery Centre, Bird Hides and board walks were completed in April 2005. The external landscape areas and floating mangrove board walk would be completed by the end of August 2005.

Exhibition fabrication

6. The off-site fabrication works started since September 2004 and the on-site fabrication and installation works commenced at the Visitor Centre in April 2005. The fabrication and installation works are expected to be completed in early 2006.

Outsourcing of the management and operation of HKWP

7. AFCD launched the tender exercise for outsourcing the management and operation of HKWP in December 2004. Invitation for tender proposal was closed on 11 March 2005. The Government is currently assessing the tender proposals received in accordance with the evaluation criteria set out in the tender document.

Marketing

8. AFCD worked with the Hong Kong Tourism Board (HKTb) and the Tourism Commission to promote HKWP to both local communities and overseas markets. A series of road shows led by senior Government officials were conducted in Singapore, Thailand, and the Mainland (Beijing and Guangzhou) in May and June 2005 to promote the new tourism initiatives, including the HKWP. AFCD also participated in the launching of the Discover Hong Kong Year 2006 and other familiarisation seminars organized by the HKTb to promote HKWP to overseas tourism market players.

Designation of HKWP as Special Area and related legislative amendments

9. The Chief Executive in Council has approved the designation of the HKWP as a Special Area under the Country Parks Ordinance and the related legislative amendments to set fees and charges at HKWP. The admission fees to HKWP for adult and concessionary groups are \$30 and \$15 respectively. Annual/half-year passes and family passes will also be available. The parking fees for private car is \$8 per hour and the parking fee for bus or light bus carrying visitors to HKWP will be free to encourage group visit.

Ecological monitoring

10. AFCD conducted ecological monitoring at HKWP. According to the records in 2004, a total of 150 species of birds, 33 species of dragonflies, 226 species of butterflies and moths, 7 species of fish, 8 species of amphibians, 7 species of reptiles and 8 species of mammals were found in HKWP.

Advice Sought

11. Members are invited to note the progress of the project.

Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department
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