How to Use of the Guidelines

1. The Environmental Monitoring and Audit (EM&A) Guidelines for Development Projects in Hong Kong (the Guidelines) shall form a reference document, for Project Proponents (or their environmental consultants, Engineers, Contractors, Environmental Team, Independent Checker (Environment)), during environmental studies and the subsequent implementation of a project through its design, tender, construction, operation, and decommissioning phases.

2. Specifically, the Guidelines shall form the basis for, and aid in the preparation of a project's particular EM&A programme. A project EM&A manual shall contain all the arrangements, protocols and procedures for the efficient and effective environmental management and implementation of the project's EM&A aspects and requirements. The project EM&A manual shall cover all stages of a project's development, from design through to operation (or decommissioning if applicable).

3. In general, the Guidelines shall serve as a core reference to the nature and extent of a project's EM&A programme and requirements, if deemed necessary, and their means for effective implementation and environmental management.

4. Before the preparation of a project EM&A manual, the Project Proponent, or his environmental consultant, shall show the need for project EM&A requirements.

5. A project EM&A manual is based, normally, on the requirements of an approved Environmental Impact Assessment/Environmental Assessment (EIA/EA) study report and shall form an integral part of that approved report.

6. The Guidelines cover the most typical environmental aspects encountered during the design, construction, operation, maintenance and decommissioning of a project, namely, air, noise, water quality, waste disposal and ecological media.

7. If any of these environmental media/aspects are screened or scoped out during an EIA/EA study, the related and relevant EM&A clauses and sections identified in the Guidelines, shall not apply to the project specific EM&A manual nor the integral EM&A programmes.

8. Similarly, if there are any environmental media/aspects not covered by the Guideline, but identified as necessary in the approved project EIA/EA study report, they shall be included in the project specific EM&A manual and programmes.

9. The Guidelines provide, inter alia, the framework and guidance, for the inclusion of appropriate environmental protection and pollution control specifications, and monitoring and audit requirements during the compilation of project EM&A programmes.

10. The Guidelines do not contain any project specific information. The Project Proponent shall ensure the incorporation of project specific information and the preparation of project particular EM&A programmes and manual, based on, inter alia, project EIA/EA study and process recommendations, requirements and conditions.