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**(ACE Paper 66/96)**  
**for information**

## **Mid-term Review of ACE**

### **Purpose**

The present term of office of the Advisory Council on the Environment (ACE) is from 1 January 1996 to 31 December 1997. The purpose of this paper is to review the activities of the Council in the first half of its term of office from January to December 1996.

### **Introduction**

2. The ACE is government's principle advisory body on matters related to pollution control and sustainability of the environment. It is consulted on a wide range of issues relating to new legislative proposals and the implementation of existing pollution control and conservation measures. Major policy initiatives are also referred to ACE for advice before they are adopted by the government.

### **Summary of the activities of the Council**

3. The Council has held monthly meetings since January 1996. In addition, three special sessions were held: meeting with the International Review Panel to discuss issues relating to the pilot plant chemical dosing and disinfection study for the Strategic Sewage Disposal Scheme Stage I; and two briefing sessions on the SUSDEV 21 study and the Territorial Development Strategy Review respectively.

4. The Council also organised four site visits to obtain a better understanding of the matters being discussed, viz, a visit to the Stonecutters Island to inspect the Strategic Sewage Disposal Scheme Stage I project on 29 May 1996, two field trips to the Sha Lo Tung valley on 23 November 1996 and 5 December 1996 respectively and a visit to the Shenzhen River Regulation Project on 20 September 1996.

5. During the period (January to December), ACE considered 28 discussion papers and noted 42 information papers. A full list of these papers, which includes a breakdown of the discussion papers into new legislative proposals, implementation of existing pollution control and conservation measures and major policy initiatives and the outcome of the Council's discussions, is at Annex I.

6. Apart from that, the Council also considered 21 environmental impact assessment (EIA) reports presented and recommended by the EIA Sub-committee. A list of the EIA reports is at Annex II.

## **Programme for 1997**

7. A list of tentative topics to be considered by the Council is at Annex III. It should be noted that the month of submission is subject to change depending on the progress of the relevant programmes.

## **Conclusion**

8. During 1996, the Council was informed and consulted on a large number of issues on a wide range of subject matters. Under the leadership of the Chairman and with the support of all members, the Council has been able to give valuable and sound advice to the various environmental programmes and legislative proposals which ensures that they are effective and appropriate to the situation in Hong Kong.

**Planning, Environment & Lands Branch**  
**December 1996**

**Advisory Council on the Environment**  
**Papers considered - January to December 1996**

**Discussion Papers**

**New Legislative Proposals**

Paper No.	Title and Remarks
11/96	Noise Control (Amendment) Bill 1996 - Control of Noise from Intruder Alarm Systems [Members endorsed submission of the draft bill to ExCo.]
22/96	Waste Disposal (Amendment) Bill, Waste Disposal (Designated Waste Disposal Facility) Regulation [The proposals were endorsed.]
27/96	Proposed Amendments to Air Pollution Control (Motor Vehicle Fuel) Regulation and Air Pollution Control (Vehicle Design Standards)(Emission) Regulations [The proposals to improve emissions from vehicles were endorsed.]
44/96	Consultation Paper on the Town Planning White Bill [Members were particularly interested in the relationship between the town planning process and the environmental impact assessment process.]
45/96	Waste Disposal (Forms and Fees for Licences) Regulation [The proposed fee levels were endorsed. Members noted the advanced implementation of the relevant regulations.]
68/96	Proposed Amendments to the Fisheries Protection Ordinance and Fisheries Protection Regulations [AFD to consult Council in December on proposed amendments to FPO to control destructive fishing methods.]

**Implementation of existing pollution control and conservation measures**

Paper No.	Title and Remarks
1/96	Declaration of Victoria Harbour (Phase Three) Water Control Zone [Members endorsed the declaration of this WCZ. This completed the declaration of all WCZs in Hong Kong. Members expressed concerns on the keeping of fish for seafood using polluted sea water.]
3/96	Proposed Subsidiary Legislation Made under the Air Pollution Control Ordinance - Air Pollution Control (Asbestos)(Administration) Regulation [Originally endorsed by members in Dec. 1995. Further minor changes endorsed by members.]
4/96	Air Pollution Control Ordinance - Codes on Practice for Control of Environmental Asbestos [Members commented on the handling of asbestos.]
9/96	Review of Charges for the Disposal of Chemical Waste at the Chemical Waste Treatment Centre [The revised charges were endorsed. Members also expressed concerns on the efficiency of the CWTC.]

59/96	Increase of Fees under Waste Disposal Ordinance (Cap. 354), Water Pollution Control Ordinance (Cap. 358), Air Pollution Control Ordinance (Cap. 311), Noise Control Ordinance (Cap. 400) [Members endorsed the proposed fee increase.]
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#### Major Policy Initiatives

Paper No.	Title and Remarks
2/96	Third Review of the 1989 White Paper on the Environment [Members gave a wide range of comments on the content of the Third Review.]
8/96	Consultants' Recommendation For the Waste Reduction Plan [Members welcomed the Plan and gave comments on various aspects of the plan.]
33/96	Study on Sustainable Development for the 21st Century (SUSDEV 21) [Members welcomed the study and commented on various aspects of the study.]
34/96	Territorial Development Strategy Review - Strategic Environmental Assessment [Paper submitted for a special briefing. Paper noted.]
35/96	Territorial Development Strategy Review - Final Report [Members were briefed at a special session. Members were welcomed to give their views to Planning Department during the six month consultation period.]

#### Others

Paper No.	Title and Remarks
7/96	Report of the EIA Subcommittee - February [Items 1 & 2 in Annex II endorsed.]
12/96	Review of the Trade Effluent Surcharge Scheme [Members noted the review and commented on the reliability of testing laboratories and the use of COD as the charging parameter.]
13/96	Conservation and Development Pressure in Areas in and Around Country Parks [Paper submitted by World Wide Fund for Nature Hong Kong. Specific instances of development pressure on country parks were discussed.]
16/96	Report of the EIA Subcommittee - April [Items 3 & 4 in Annex II endorsed.]
21/96	Report of the EIA Subcommittee - May [Items 5, 6, 7, and 13 in Annex II endorsed.]
28/96	Report of the EIA Subcommittee - June [Item 8 in Annex II endorsed.]
37/96	Report of the EIA Subcommittee - July [Items 9 & 14 in Annex II endorsed.]
42/96	Report of the EIA Subcommittee - August [Items 10, 15 and 16 in Annex II endorsed.]
52/96	Report of the EIA Subcommittee - September [Items 11, 17 in Annex II endorsed. Item 19 in Annex II noted. Council recommended that all other technical procedures such as Finance Committee approval should proceed.]
53/96	Report of the EIA Subcommittee - October [Items 12 & 18 in Annex II endorsed.]
61/96	Report of the EIA Subcommittee - November

	[Item 20 was referred to the full Council for decision. Full Council had considerable misgivings about the Sha Lo Tung EIA report. Details of decision would be given at 16.12.96 meeting.]
67/96	Report of the EIA Subcommittee - December [To report on the EIA Subcommittee's decision on item 21 in Annex II.]

### Information Papers

Paper No.	Title and Remarks
5/96	Marine and Inland Water Quality in Hong Kong for 1994 and Beach Water Quality for 1995 [Members commented on the findings of the report. A visit to SSDS Stage I was suggested.]
6/96	Information Note on Drawing of Sea Water for Keeping Seafood [Paper submitted on request. Not discussed at meeting.]
10/96	Toxic Air Pollutant Emissions Inventory for Hong Kong [Members noted the report and suggested that the Executive Summary be amended slightly.]
14/96	Infrastructure Co-ordinating Committee [Members noted the paper.]
15/96	Hong Kong - Guangdong Environmental Protection Liaison Group [Members noted the paper. Related matter of waste oil treatment at CWTC was discussed.]
17/96	Kowloon-Canton Railway Corporation - West Rail [Members noted the project. They expressed their concerns on the potential environmental impacts of the project.]
18/96	Noise Control (Amendment) Bill 1996 [Members were informed of some technical amendments to the Bill they endorsed in March. Not discussed at meeting.]
19/96	Contaminated Mud Disposal at East Sha Chau - Interim Report IV [Members were informed on the progress of the review being carried out by EVS consultants.]
20/96	Toxic Air Pollutant Emissions Inventory for Hong Kong [Members noted the revised Executive Summary as they requested.]
23/96	Role of the Advisory Council on the Environment in the Proposed Statutory Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Process [Members commented on the role of ACE and how ecological aspects could be taken into account.]
24/96	Strategic Sewage Disposal Scheme Stage I - Pilot Plant Study on Chemical Dosing and Disinfection Situation Report [Paper for the Ad Hoc meeting on 12.6.96. Members noted the progress of the study.]
25/96	Interim Report on Marine and Inland Water Quality in Hong Kong in 1995 [Members noted the changes in water quality. Report endorsed.]
26/96	Air Quality of Hong Kong [Members shown a keen interest in the validity of the data given the varied spatial and temporal exposure pattern of different sectors of the community. Members were also keen in knowing more about air quality in vehicular tunnels, especially the Tate's Cairn Tunnel.]
29/96	Shenzhen River Regulation Project - Situation Report on Implementation of Environmental Mitigation Measures for Stage I Works

	[Provided to update members on current developments of the project. Paper noted.]
30/96	Update on Fill Supply [Members were interested in the supply of fill material from Chinese sources and whether these fill materials were taken in environmentally friendly ways.]
31/96	Mangrove Planting for Shenzhen River Regulation Project Stage II [Paper provided upon requested. Information considered useful.]
32/96	A Summary of the Ad Hoc ACE Meeting on 12 June 1996 [Paper noted.]
36/96	Air Quality in Vehicle Tunnels [Members noted that the long term solution to improve air quality in vehicular tunnels was to set standards through legislation.]
38/96	Building Energy Codes [Members noted the development of the energy codes.]
39/96	Manpower Situation in the Environmental Protection Department [Members noted the development and the present manpower strength of EPD.]
40/96	Submission to the Advisory Council on the Environment - Energy Policy, Climate Change and the Environment (Friends of the Earth) [Members commented on the ways to control green house gases emissions and demand side management for electrical energy.]
41/96	Waste Oil Disposal at CWTC [The treatment of waste oil at CWTC was noted.]
43/96	Floating Rubbish in the Harbour [Members commented on various ways to combat the problem of floating rubbish.]
46/96	Ozone Layer Protection (Products Containing Scheduled Substances) (Import Banning)(Amendment) Regulation [Members were informed of some minor technical amendments to the proposal they endorsed in October 1995. Not discussed in meeting.]
47/96	Control of Ozone Depleting Substances in Hong Kong - an Update [Members discussed the present situation on control of ozone depleting substances in Hong Kong.]
48/96	The Environment and Conservation Fund [Paper noted. Funding for administration for green groups raised by some members.]
49/96	Control on Trade in Endangered Species in Hong Kong [Members noted the successful efforts of Hong Kong in this area.]
50/96	Selection of Engineering Consultants for Hong Kong Government Projects [Paper provided upon request. Not discussed at meeting.]
51/96	Review of the Charges for the Collection and Disposal of MARPOL Wastes at the Chemical Waste Treatment Centre [Members were informed of the revised charges. Not discussed at meeting.]
54/96	Off-site Environmental Mitigation Measures [Members welcomed the policy. They also commented on various aspects of the policy.]
55/96	Outline Brief for Study on Wetland Compensation [Members commented on different aspects of the study brief.]
56/96	Effects of the Tolo Harbour Effluent Export Scheme on the Water Quality of Kwun Tong Typhoon Shelter, Victoria Harbour and Tolo Harbour [Members noted that the scheme had no noticeable adverse effects on the water quality of Victoria Harbour. They were, however, concerned that the scheme had not been fully implemented according to schedule because of some mechanical equipment failure.]
57/96	Ozone Layer Protection (Amendment) Bill [Members were informed about some changes to the proposed amendments they endorsed in November 1995. Members endorsed the further changes.]
58/96	Increase of Fees under Road Traffic Ordinance (Cap. 374), Ozone Layer

	Protection Ordinance (Cap. 403), Dumping At Sea Ordinance (Cap. 466) [Member noted these proposed fee increases.]
60/96	New Airport at Chek Lap Kok - Proposed Options for Permanent Aviation Fuel Receiving Facility and Pipeline Routes [Members gave their preliminary views on the final two options of the fuel receiving facility selected for further study.]
62/96	Progress on Marine Parks and Marine Reserves [Members noted the progress of the marine parks programme. They urged more efforts should be spent to educate the fishing community.]
63/96	Contaminated Mud Disposal at East Sha Chau - Interim Report V [Members noted the existence of DDT in dolphin tissues and the revised criteria to screen contaminants.]
64/95	Construction Waste Disposal [Paper to be discussed at Dec. meeting.]
65/96	Proposed Sha Lo Tung Development - Land Resumption Option [Paper tabled at Nov. 1996 meeting to assist discussion on the Sha Lo Tung EIA report. Members noted the paper.]
66/96	Mid Term Review of ACE [This paper. To be considered by members on 16.12.96.]
69/96	Marine and Inland Water Quality for 1995 [To be discussed on 16.12.96.]
70/96	TBT Control at Shipyard and Docks [To be discussed on 16.12.96.]

**EIA Reports considered by ACE & EIA Subcommittee in 1996 (Jan. - Dec.)**

**Endorsed without conditions**

1. EIA report for backfilling of South Tsing Yi and North of Lantau Marine Borrow Areas
2. EIA report for improvements to Ying Yip Road and Silverstrand Beach Road at Junctions with Hang Hau Road and Clear Water Bay Road
3. EIA study for Discovery Bay North Development Master Plan 6.0(A) and the Road and Tunnel Link
4. Supplementary EIA for dredging of the anchorage area for Stonecutters Island Naval Base
5. Proposed Housing Development at Tin Shui Wai Area 3 Environmental Assessment Study
6. Proposed Housing Development at Tin Shui Wai Area 30 & 31 Environmental Assessment Study
7. Reclamation and Servicing of Tuen Mun Area 38 for Special Industries-Improvement to Roads and Junctions within Tuen Mun EIA report
8. Proposed Housing Development at Ma On Shan Area 77 Site 19 Environmental Assessment Study
9. EIA Study for Strategic Sewage Disposal Scheme Stage I Principal Collection and Treatment System
10. Proposed Housing Development at Yuen Chau Kok, Sha Tin Area 14B EIA report
11. Kennedy Town Traffic Management Measures Stage 3 - Widening of Kennedy Town Praya
12. EIA report for Wanchai East and North Point Sewerage

**Endorsed with conditions**

13. EIA report for Four Potential Housing Development Sites
14. Main Drainage Channels for Ngau Tam Mei, Yuen Long and Kam Tin EIA report