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For Information

Annual Report 2005 of the Waste Subcommittee

Overview

The Waste Subcommittee (WSC) held two regular meetings and three workshops in 2005. The WSC deliberated the management strategy of municipal solid waste (MSW) in detail at its meetings, and identified “MSW Charging”, “Producer Responsibility Schemes (PRS)” and “Domestic Waste Recovery” as the themes for its workshops. The advice of the WSC, as well as the views expressed at the workshops, have been incorporated as appropriate in the “Policy Framework for the Management of Municipal Solid Waste (2005-2014)” (“Policy Framework”), which was published by the Administration in December 2005.

Management Strategy of Municipal Solid Waste in Hong Kong

2. In anticipation of the publication of the “Policy Framework”, the WSC focused its discussion on the management strategy of MSW in 2005. The WSC considered that the “Policy Framework” should present an overall picture of the imminent waste problem, and put forth a holistic plan to resolve the problem. It considered that waste reduction and recycling should be the key focus of the management strategy of MSW, and more effective policy initiatives, including legislative measures and economic incentives, should be put in place. In line with the principle of “polluter pays”, the WSC suggested that MSW charging and PRS should be introduced in Hong Kong, while the source separation of

domestic waste programme should be extended territory-wide. To garner the full support from the community and change people's mindset, a sustained programme of public education should underlie all the policy initiatives.

Workshops on “Municipal Solid Waste Charging”, “Producer Responsibility Schemes” and “Domestic Waste Recovery”

3. The WSC held three workshops in July 2005 to further look into MSW charging, PRS and domestic waste recovery respectively. The workshops were well attended by representatives from the green groups, the academics and the trade. The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department, the Housing Department and the Consumer Council also sent their representatives to the workshops to share their experience.

4. At the workshops, participants generally agreed that MSW charging, PRS and domestic waste recovery should be the key elements in the overall waste management strategy. They also offered their views on how these initiatives should be implemented and what problems the Administration should be aware of. A report on the workshops (*ACE Paper 25/2005*) was submitted to the Council in September 2005.

Looking Ahead

5. With the publication of the “Policy Framework” in December 2005, the WSC will play an important role in advising the Administration on the implementation of the key initiatives in the “Policy Framework” in the years to come. To better reflect its role and function, WSC will be renamed as “Waste Management Subcommittee”.

Waste Management Subcommittee Secretariat
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