

Hospital Authority

Pledge and Achievements on Environmental Management Initiatives

Amidst the growing community awareness for a cleaner environment and strong concerns on environment protection, the Hospital Authority (HA) has adopted a proactive strategy to develop its plan to systematically reduce the negative impact to the eco-system arising from its core operations. A Working Group on Environmental Issues has been set up at the HA Head Office to steer the development and implementation of environmental protection initiatives in HA. The following report sets out the six key areas of environmental protection identified and their current status in HA.

Environmental Statutory Compliance

2. All HA's hospitals have ensured organisational compliance with relevant statutory requirements, established standards and Code of Practice. With continuous collaboration and input from hospital management and frontline healthcare workers, HA will continue to identify environmentally related safety issues and establish good practice protocols and guidelines for management's planning and execution and also for all staff's reference.

Energy and Utilities Management

3. Energy conservation is implemented widely in all HA's hospitals through many invest-to-save projects. A reduction of energy costs by around \$13Mn has been achieved through the roll-out of energy conservation measures in 13 hospitals in 2002/03. When planning for new hospital projects and major refurbishment, the various proven energy conservation measures will be taken into consideration in the design or improvement plan to achieve higher energy efficiency and better conservation.

Pollution Prevention and Minimization of Consumption

4. To avoid and control environmental pollution, all HA hospitals have continuously adopted new and effective means to reduce the amount of waste generated from the day-to-day activities. Achievements so far include reduction of clinical waste from 0.272kg per patient/bed in 1995 to 0.09kg in 2002, purchase of LPG Non Emergency Ambulance Transport vehicles, implementation of ozone laundry system in 5 hospitals, development of guidelines on exposure to DEHP, and promotion & implementation of smoke-free policy. Many HA hospitals also

participated in the WasteWise Scheme organised by the Environmental Protection Department and HK Productivity Council. In 2003, 6 hospitals received the Gold WasteWise Logo and 21 hospitals gained the WasteWise Logo respectively.

Staff Awareness and Commitment

5. To encourage HA's staff to shoulder and share personal responsibility for good house keeping, waste reduction and conservation, and serve as role models, HA Head Office has organised periodical training and education as well as experience sharing workshops with focus on various environmental related subjects. An environmental protection web site has also been developed by HA Head Office as part of the central resource centre's support for free access by staff.

Purchasing and Contracting

6. To encourage participation by HA's suppliers and contractors and engage their adoption of relevant or recognised standards, the commitment to achieve environmentally responsible purchasing has been stipulated in the general clause of HA's supply contract documents and tenders.

Management Structure

7. A working group for environmental issues has been established at the HA Head Office level to steer various environmental initiatives and activities. Regular liaison and collaboration are maintained amongst the respective hospital green committees and green managers. With the existing expertise support of a central resource centre, consisting of subject officers in ozone laundry, clinical waste, energy conservation, asbestos, public affairs, etc., the environmental issues are well taken care of by all concerned in HA.

8. Some hospitals including Kwong Wah Hospital, Haven of Hope Hospital and Pamela Youde Nethersole Eastern Hospital, have implemented the ISO 14000 for environmental management. Furthermore, the Biomedical Engineering Services Section of the HA has recently been accredited by the Hong Kong Quality Assurance Agency with the certification on ISO14001 Environmental Management System.

9. With all the above-mentioned commitments and corporate-wide strong support, HA has taken a coherent approach to effectively focus and manage the impact of HA's activities on the environment and demonstrated progress at par with international standards.

Hospital Authority
September 2003