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(ACE Paper 60/97)
for information

Summary of Works of ACE
from 1 January 1996 to 31 December 1997

Purpose

This paper summarises the activities of this Council in the current term from 1 January 1996 to 31 December 1997.

Introduction

2. The ACE is government's principal 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

From 1 January 1996 to 31 December 1996

3. The activities of the Council in the first half of its term of office were reported to Members at the Council's meeting on 16 December 1996, vide the attached ACE Paper 66/96 (Annex A).

From 1 January 1997 to 31 December 1997

4. During this period, the Council held monthly meetings except for June when there was no meeting.

5. The Council also organised seven visits to obtain a better understanding of the matters being discussed or the operation of environmental facilities which they were concerned about. A courtesy call on the Provisional Legislative Council Environmental Affairs Panel was also made on 17 December 1997. A list of these visits is at Annex B.

6. During the period, the Council considered 27 discussion papers and noted 34 information papers. A full list of these papers, which includes a breakdown of the discussion 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 C.

7. Apart from that, the Council also considered 21 EIA reports. With the exception of the EIA on Quarry Bay Relief Works which was not vetted by the EIA Subcommittee first before being considered by the Council due to the urgency of the project, all were presented and recommended by the EIA Subcommittee. A list of the EIA Reports is at Annex D.

8. Starting from October 1997, information on the membership and terms of reference of the Council and its EIA Subcommittee, and the titles of the papers and EIA reports considered were made available to the public through the Planning, Environment and Lands Bureau's Homepage on the Internet.

9. To encourage the use of Cantonese at meetings, simultaneous interpretation service was provided at the Council's meetings since July 1997.

Conclusion

10. During its current term of office, the Council has held 26 meetings and was consulted on a large number of issues on a wide range of subject matters. Altogether, the Council considered 55 discussions papers and 42 EIA Reports and noted 76 information papers. 12 visits were also organised.

11. 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 ensure that they are effective and appropriate to the situation in Hong Kong.