



Room 924, 9th floor, Murray Building, Garden Road, Central, Hong Kong
Tel: 2848 2606 Fax: 2530 5264
香港中環花園道美利大廈9樓924室•電話：2848 2606 傳真機：2530 5264

(ACE Paper 15/98)
for information

**STUDY ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
IN HONG KONG FOR THE 21ST CENTURY**

PURPOSE

This paper briefs Members on the progress of the Study on Sustainable Development in Hong Kong for the 21st Century (SUSDEV21 in short).

BACKGROUND

2. The publication of the Brundtland Report in 1987 by the World Commission on Environment and Development has drawn world-wide attention to the concept of sustainable development. This concept was formally adopted by the United Nation Conference on Environment and Development held in Rio de Janeiro in June 1992 and the Conference agreed on a blueprint for achieving sustainable development, commonly referred to as Agenda 21. In addition, the Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation, of which Hong Kong is a member, strongly reinforced the goal of sustainable development at its meeting in Manila in July 1996.
3. In June 1996, we briefed this Council on the proposal to commission SUSDEV21 to examine how the concept of sustainability can be applied to Hong Kong. Members' views were taken into account in finalising the Study Brief. Subsequently, Environmental Resource Management (Hong Kong) Ltd. was appointed as consultants for SUSDEV21. The Study formally commenced on 1 September 1997, and is targeted for completion before the turn of the century.

PROGRESS OF STUDY

Inception Report

4. To provide a framework for conducting SUSDEV21, the consultants have prepared an Inception Report, a copy is at Annex. The Inception Report summarises the objective, approach, methodology and deliverables of the Study.

5. In summary, the Study is being conducted in four main stages, as follows :
 - (a) defining 'sustainable development' for Hong Kong;
 - (b) establishing environmental, economic and social baseline data;
 - (c) developing a new decision-making tool, called the 'Sustainable Development System' (SDS); and
 - (d) training users of the SDS and educating stakeholders about how it will function.
6. The SDS, as a new decision-making tool, is intended to provide for the integration of a full spectrum of policy initiatives, including economic and infrastructural development, as well as social and environmental protection issues so that they could be mutually supportive. The SDS would comprise a set of decision support tools to facilitate the implementation of sustainable development.
7. The decision support tools would assist the understanding of long-term implications of today's strategic decisions. The SDS would be computer-based and consist of a Geographical Information System (GIS) with maps and associated baseline data, as well as a Decision Support System (DSS) which would integrate the baseline data with a set of sustainable development indicators to allow evaluation of potential impacts of the projects or policy proposals in the social, economic and environmental domains.

Other Aspects of Study

8. In addition to the Inception Report, three Topic Reports have also been prepared, respectively documenting the international experience on sustainable development; regional development trends; and the key findings of completed and on-going studies in Hong Kong having implications on sustainable development. Work has also commenced on defining sustainable development for Hong Kong and developing guiding values and indicators for sustainable development.

Public Awareness and Consultation

9. Arrangements are also being made for the first public awareness and consultation programme to be launched in early April 1998. This Council would be consulted again after the formal commencement of the programme. An Information Digest and a Supplementary Note to contain the gists of the reports mentioned in para. 8 above, among other documents, would be submitted for Members' consideration.

ADVICE SOUGHT

10. Members are invited to note the Inception Report at Annex and the current progress of SUSDEV21 as set out in paras. 8 and 9 above.

**PLANNING DEPARTMENT
MARCH 1998**