

**Advisory Council on the Environment
Nature Conservation Subcommittee**

**Progress Report of the Hong Kong Wetland Park Project
(August 2005 to January 2006)**

Purpose

This paper presents the progress of the Hong Kong Wetland Park (HKWP) project from August 2005 to January 2006 for members' information.

Background

2. At the last meeting held in September 2005, we briefed members on the progress of the Phase 2 of HKWP project. Subsequent developments since the last meeting are reported in the ensuing paragraphs.

Progress

Exhibition fabrication

3. The exhibit fabrication and installation works are continued at the Visitor Centre of HKWP. Most of the large scale fabrication works including the artificial snowy cliff at the frozen north area, dry wall at the tropical wetland area, live exhibit tanks and other large components in the Human Culture and Wetland Challenge galleries were completed. The fabricator is now focusing on the installation of smaller exhibits and graphic production. It is anticipated that the works will be completed in the second quarter of 2006.

Management and Operation of HKWP

4. The Government launched a tender exercise for outsourcing the management and operation of HKWP in December 2004. The tender was cancelled in September 2005 as the Government could not identify a suitable tenderer in the assessment process. As a result, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) will take up the management and operation of HKWP for an interim period of two years. During the initial operation period, the Government will collect more marketing and operational

information of HKWP and review the outsourcing contract with the introduction of a patronage-linked bonus scheme. We plan to launch another tender exercise two years after the full operation of HKWP.

5. To facilitate proper management and operation of HKWP, AFCD will recruit some 60 staff to provide core services and contract out non-core services, such as security, cleansing, landscaping, etc. The recruitment and tendering for non-core services are now in progress.

6. AFCD has also invited tenders for operation of souvenir shop and cafe in HKWP. The tender was closed in early 2006 and the Government is now assessing the tender proposals.

Marketing of HKWP

7. AFCD has been working with the Hong Kong Tourism Board and the Tourism Commission on marketing and pre-opening publicity of HKWP.

Designation of HKWP as Special Area and related legislative amendment

8. The designation of HKWP as a Special Area under the Country Parks Ordinance has taken effect since 1 October 2005. AFCD has also lodged an application to the Town Planning Board to re-zone the land of HKWP to “Country Park” zoning. The application is pending the Town Planning Board’s consideration.

Ecological monitoring

9. AFCD continues the ecological monitoring at HKWP to record wildlife utilization at HKWP habitats. According to recent finding, more than 160 species of birds were recorded at HKWP. These include ducks, water hens and egrets found in the freshwater marshes.

Advice Sought

10. Members are invited to note the progress of the project.

Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department
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