

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BRANCH
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND LABOUR BUREAU
ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT 2003

INTRODUCTION

- This report sets out the environmental goals, policy and performance of the Economic Development Branch (EDB) of the Economic Development and Labour Bureau.

PROFILE OF KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

- The Permanent Secretary for Economic Development and Labour (Economic Development) (PSED) is responsible for the following policy programme areas -
 - civil aviation, port and maritime services
 - logistics
 - tourism
 - energy
 - postal services
 - meteorological services
 - competition policy and consumer protection

- In the 2003-2004 financial year, PSED was accountable for an expenditure of some \$120 million in EDB and the management of an establishment of 133 posts.

ENVIRONMENTAL GOAL AND OBJECTIVES

- We are committed to:
 - ensuring that our policies are environmentally friendly;
 - ensuring that all programmes and operations under our purview are conducted in an environmentally responsible manner; and
 - enhancing the environmental awareness among staff.
- We give effect to the commitment through pursuit of the following objectives, having regard to the requirements of the Environment, Transport and Works Bureau (ETWB) and Environment Protection Department (EPD) where appropriate.

CIVIL AVIATION

- We aim to ensure that the legislative framework and Government's administrative measures are effective in minimizing the environmental impact of aircraft operations.

- We will continue to work with the Airport Authority (AA) to ensure that the environmental impact of airport development and operations is minimized and that the AA and Civil Aviation Department (CAD) will take pro-active measures to improve the environment of the Hong Kong International Airport (HKIA).

PORT AND MARITIME SERVICES

- We aim to ensure that our legislative framework and administrative measures are effective in minimizing the environmental impact of shipping and port operations.
- We will continue to work, in conjunction with ETWB & EPD, with the port & maritime community to ensure that the environmental impact of port development and operations is minimized.

LOGISTICS

- We will work with the logistics community to promote measures to protect the environment and to ensure that the negative environmental impact of logistics operations is minimized.

TOURISM

- We will continue to actively promote Hong Kong's unique natural beauty, world-class and environmentally friendly infrastructure projects such as the Hong Kong Wetland Park and the Tung Chung Cable Car

System, as well as various other green facilities to overseas tourists. The objective is to enhance the Hong Kong community's awareness of the richness of our natural resources and encourage them to preserve our natural assets for sustainable use.

- We will continue to promote the sustainable development of tourism by encouraging and facilitating the tourism industry to adopt good environmental practices to minimize the environmental impact of tourism developments. We will continue to work with the tourism trade to upgrade the professional standards of tourism practitioners.

ENERGY

- We will work with power and gas suppliers to ensure that the impact on the environment from emissions in energy production is minimized, having regard to ETWB's and EPD's requirements.
- We will work through ETWB and EMSD to encourage energy suppliers to actively promote efficient use of energy by their customers.
- We will work with ETWB and encourage the power companies to explore the potential for wider application of renewable energy in Hong Kong.

POSTAL SERVICES

- We aim to ensure that postal services and operations are conducted in an environmentally friendly manner.

METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES

- We aim to ensure that meteorological facilities are operated in the most efficient and responsible manner and that resources including environmentally friendly alternatives such as solar and wind power are used in the operation of the meteorological service where practicable.
- We will monitor and inform the public of changes in the climate of Hong Kong in relation to global warming.

COMPETITION POLICY AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

- We will promote competition and consumer protection in a manner which minimizes possible environmental impact.

INTERNAL MANAGEMENT

- We seek to cultivate a high degree of environmental awareness among all staff in EDB and to ensure that the day-to-day operation of the Branch is managed in an environmentally responsible manner,

particularly in relation to consumption of electricity, use of paper and recycling of waste materials.

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

CIVIL AVIATION

- AA and CAD have implemented specific initiatives to improve the environment. The former is responsible for the management and operation of the HKIA and the latter is the regulator in civil aviation and provider of air traffic control services.
- AA has implemented a waste reduction programme, including food waste composting and energy saving measures. These initiatives have achieved good results. AA has also enhanced the food waste composting program by installing one additional composter to process food waste from more restaurants in 2003.
- In 2003, the AA achieved an overall 1% saving in electricity consumption when compared with 2002.
- AA has also required its business partners to compile environmental management plans covering their facilities and operations and audit their activities for environmental compliance.

- AA completed a marine environmental monitoring programme around the HKIA in 2003. The results indicated that airport operation has negligible impact on neighbouring marine water sediment quality.
- The AA will regularly review and update the Noise Exposure Forecast for the HKIA.
- CAD implemented a series of aircraft noise mitigation measures and closely monitored their implementation. Such measures include noise abatement departure procedures, continuous descent approach procedure to reduce aircraft noise experienced by residents in Sai Kung and Ma On Shan, and use of flight paths over water to avoid overflying residential areas whenever possible.
- Since August 1999, CAD has required all airlines to adopt the noise abatement departure procedures stipulated by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) for aircraft departing to the northeast of the airport. To further alleviate the noise impact, ICAO has revised the noise abatement take-off procedures. The revised procedures have been introduced in Hong Kong since March 2002 after a series of simulator trials and consultation with airlines.
- In 2003, CAD recorded that 93.7% of arriving aircraft were able to land from the southwest of the HKIA (i.e. over water) between midnight and 7 am; and 99.6% of aircraft departing to the northeast of

the airport were able to take the southbound route over the West Lamma Channel between 11 pm and 7 am.

- Starting 1 July 2002, older and noisier aircraft stipulated in Chapter 2 of Annex 16 Volume I Part II of the Convention on International Civil Aviation are banned from operating at the HKIA. All aircraft operating at the HKIA now are quieter, meeting more stringent noise standards.
- CAD provides periodic reports on aircraft noise measurements, performance of noise mitigation measures, and means to enhance the noise mitigation measures. CAD also meets members of the public and maintains a hotline to handle enquiries or complaints on aircraft noise issues.
- In the course of identifying possible sites for heliport developments, CAD works closely with the EPD and helicopter operators to ensure that the development proposals comply with all relevant environmental standards. It also conducts public consultations on these proposals.

PORT AND MARITIME SERVICES

- The Marine Department (MD) which is responsible for maritime and navigational safety matters within the waters of Hong Kong, has implemented various initiatives to protect and improve the environment.

- MD operates a fleet of patrol vessels to ensure compliance with marine regulations against offences such as littering, illegal transfer or discharge of oil, and smoke emission by ships in Hong Kong waters.
- MD has introduced objective-based contracts for floating refuse scavenging and boat refuse collection services to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of marine refuse cleansing.
- MD has developed a Maritime Oil Spill Response Plan to co-ordinate departmental actions for handling oil pollution incidents in Hong Kong waters. In 2003, MD fulfilled the pledge to respond on site within two hours of reported oil spillage inside harbour limits.
- MD has introduced energy saving plans to cut down energy consumption in the China Ferry Terminal and the Macau Ferry Terminal by economising on the use of lighting and air conditioning.
- MD has adopted green measures at all fronts in the operation of the Government Dockyard, including annual review and upgrading of facilities with environmentally friendly products, regular noise surveys/measurements for plant equipment, etc.
- MD implements relevant international conventions on marine pollution prevention through the enactment and enforcement of legislation. These conventions include the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships 73/78, the International Convention on Oil Pollution Preparedness Response and Co-operation 1990 and the Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matters. These conventions apply to all ships in

Hong Kong waters and Hong Kong registered ships anywhere in the world.

- We also work closely with operators of container terminals, mid-stream and river trade operators to preserve a clean and safe environment for sea transport. We encourage the application of Information Technology (IT) in port operations. For example, MD has established the Electronic Business System for handling port formalities and other related services, whilst port operators have widely adopted the Electronic Data Interchange for exchanging information in day-to-day operation. The above measures enhance the efficiency and competitiveness of the port as well as reduce the consumption of paper.
- Container terminal operators have also implemented other measures, such as the use of energy saving equipments, reduction of unnecessary light fittings, installation of grease traps and oil interceptors in workshops and kitchens, engaging specialized contractors to handle waste disposal, and the use of liquefied petroleum gas shuttle buses to reduce air pollution.
- We recognize that the protection of the marine environment is not only important in its own right but also instrumental in enhancing Hong Kong's position as a world-class port. In the course of port planning and development, we will continue to work with ETWB, EPD and the Sustainability Development Unit (SDU) to comply with relevant environmental impacts and sustainability assessment requirements.

LOGISTICS

- In taking forward major logistics development initiatives such as the Value Added Logistics Park, we will comply with relevant environmental impact and sustainability assessment requirements.
- We encourage the use of paperless exchange of information in the logistics industry through the promotion of wider use of IT among logistics enterprises along the supply chain. We are discussing with a prospective service provider endorsed by the logistics industry with a view to launching the Digital Trade and Transportation Network (DTTN) System in 2005. The DTTN System will provide an open and neutral e-platform for players in the supply chain to exchange information and data. The system will increase the efficiency and reliability of information flow, thereby promoting the use of IT and paperless transactions.
- We encourage local logistics professional bodies (e.g. Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport and Hong Kong Logistics Association) to grant credit to logisticians under their professional accreditation systems for taking environmental management courses.

TOURISM

- The Tourism Commission formed an Interdepartmental Committee (the Committee) in June 2003 to devise a programme to develop tourism in the Northern New Territories (NNT), based on the recommendations

and findings of a consultancy study on this subject conducted in end-2002. The Northern New Territories Tourism Development Programme is a pilot initiative to develop green tourism in the NNT focusing on Tung Ping Chau and the Tolo Harbour / Plover Cove area for priority development. It consists of a variety of enhancement and improvement works for infrastructural and supporting facilities both land-based and water-based, coupled with on-going conservation measures to ensure sustainable development. Five working groups were set up under the Committee to deliberate key aspects of the programme and draw up relevant proposals. The Committee is presently finalising a master plan for the programme prior to consultation with the stakeholders.

- We support the Hong Kong Tourism Board's (HKTB) continuing promotion of environmentally sound practices within the tourism industry via the Environmentally Sustainable Development Strategy (ESDS). To complement the ESDS, the HKTB and Hong Kong Polytechnic University jointly operate a Sustainable Travel and Tourism Resources Unit to provide information and support to tourism operators and promote sustainable tourism through a dedicated website and quarterly newsletters.

- We support the HKTB's continuing promotion of green tourism to visitors through different channels including its website, publications, custom designed products such as guided hiking programmes, themed tours, island hopping ferry pass etc. The HKTB also encourages and assists tour operators to develop new products to meet visitors' demand, and recommends eco-friendly tourism products offered by individual operators, such as dolphin-watching and bird-watching tours, to visitors. The HKTB is presently reviewing its website to enhance promotion of this type of tourism.
- Phase 1 of the Hong Kong Wetland Park (HKWP) with a 230-square-metre Exhibition Pavilion and a 5000-square-metre outdoor landscape garden was opened on 28 December 2000. It attracted some 127 600 visitors during 2003, including educational guided tours for more than 12 600 visitors from 350 schools and community organizations. Development of Phase 2 is progressing well. It comprises a 10 000 square-metre Visitor Centre and a 60-hectare (600 000 square-meter) Outdoor Wetland Reserve Park. The whole project is scheduled for completion in late 2005/ early 2006. It will showcase nature conservation, education and ecotourism in Hong Kong.

ENERGY

- In 2003, the thermal efficiencies of the power plants of CLP Power Hong Kong Limited (CLPP) and the Hongkong Electric Company Limited (HEC) were 37.6% and 35.3% respectively. Their performances were in line with the industry norms for similar power plants. The Towngas production plant of the Hong Kong and China Gas Company Limited (HKCG) at Tai Po had a thermal efficiency of about 90%.
- Both power companies and the Towngas supplier were in compliance with the environmental requirements and emission limits imposed by EPD e.g. flue gas desulphurization equipment had been fitted to generating units and more environmentally friendly fuel like natural gas had been introduced for use in new generating units. A carbon dioxide recovery and dry ice production facility have been put into operation at the HKCG Tai Po Plant since July 2000. Based on the operations in 2003, the amount of carbon dioxide emitted from the Plant can be reduced by approximately 9 100 tones per year.
- In 2003, we continued to work with the two power companies to promote the efficient use and conservation of electricity through implementation of demand side management programmes, which included a rebate scheme for non-residential consumers to encourage their use of energy-efficient equipment and installations; promotion of

the use of the time-of-use tariff scheme and educational activities with a view to reducing long term growth in demand for electricity. The three-year Demand Side Management Agreements, which were signed with the two power companies in May 2000 and enforced in July 2000, expired on 30 June 2003. The cumulative generating capacity savings achieved under the programmes were about 35 megawatts, which slightly exceeded the target savings of 33 megawatts.

- In 2003, the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department, under ETWB's auspices, completed the first stage consultancy study on the potential applications of renewable energy in Hong Kong. We would consider how renewable energy might feature in the post-2008 electricity market review.

POSTAL SERVICES

- To encourage less reliance on printed publications for postal services information, such as postage rates and services guidebooks, the Post Office has upgraded its General Enquiry Hotline Service. Through the upgraded system, callers can obtain necessary information round the clock throughout the year. Alternatively, they can browse the Post Office's website to search for the information.

- The Post Office has been using recycled paper and paper from woodpulp derived from renewable forests and environmentally friendly printing inks for producing first day covers and souvenir covers. The Post Office also encourages the re-use of used computer printer cartridges and provides collection service at counters as well as pick-up service for used cartridges exceeding certain quantity.

METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES

- Hong Kong Observatory (HKO) uses environmental friendly power supply, viz. solar power and/or wind power at 25 automatic observing stations.
- Solar power panels are used at the Tai Mo Shan Weather Radar Station to generate electricity to support an air-conditioning system.
- The Intranet, Internet and other electronic means have been extensively used for communication within the HKO and for dissemination of weather information to the public and special clients thereby reducing the use of paper.
- HKO has published a technical report on wind power in Hong Kong for reference by organizations interested in setting up wind-powered generators.

- In 2003, HKO completed a study on the climate change in Hong Kong in the past 120 years and publicized the result. Studies on the long-term sea level change in Hong Kong in the past and on the future temperature change in Hong Kong in relation to global warming are being carried out.

COMPETITION POLICY AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

- The Competition Policy Advisory Group (COMPAG) conducts publicity on competition in an environmentally friendly manner. COMPAG has, since July 2003, published its annual reports electronically instead of in hard copies for ready access by members of the public on its website.
- The Consumer Council (CC) promotes sustainable consumption through its evaluation of products and services. The CC's comparative product testing often incorporates environmental parameters such as level of energy efficiency products and packaging materials durability or recycling capability, and emissions of volatile organic compounds.
- The Customs and Excise Department has put in place various measures in conserving the environment while carrying out the duties in consumer protection. These include receiving and answering public enquiries about product safety through internet since 2001, and disposal of unwanted/unsafe product samples in a safe and environmentally friendly manner.

- The Government Laboratory is responsible for undertaking tests under the Toys and Children's Products Safety Ordinance and the Consumer Goods Safety Ordinance. It has implemented an environmental management system to conform to the requirements of ISO 14001. Documented procedures are in place to manage chemical waste disposal, handle environmental emergencies, promote energy conservation, save resources and recover waste for recycling or reuse.

INTERNAL MANAGEMENT

- We have devised measures to minimize the use of electricity, paper products, other stationery and toner cartridges, where practicable, and will continue to enlist the support of all staff to implement these measures. Major green housekeeping measures include :

Paper saving

- (a) collection of reusable paper for drafting and internal communication;
- (b) collection of waste paper for recycling;
- (c) promoting the use of both sides of paper for copying or printing;

- (d) reusing envelopes and file jackets where practicable;
- (e) implementing electronic booking of conference rooms;
- (f) encouraging extensive use of e-mails for internal and external communications through the Government Communication Network and Internet;
- (g) encouraging the use of electronic database instead of hard copies where appropriate for ready reference; and
- (h) replacing the circulation of printed information by uploading soft copy onto electronic bulletin board.

Energy conservation

- (a) reduced the duration of supplying air-conditioning to our office by one hour per day and raised the temperature for air-conditioning system by 1 in 2003;
- (b) using energy saving equipment and devices e.g. energy saving electronic ballasts or energy saving fluorescent tubes wherever possible;

- (c) installation of timer on electrical appliances to shut off power supply when the equipment is not in use; and
- (d) re-circulating guidelines electronically on green housekeeping and reminding staff to switch off lights and electrical appliances when they are not in regular use.

Green Procurement

- (a) Procuring energy saving electrical appliances where applicable; and
- (b) using green/recycled products e.g. recycled paper, reusable toner cartridges for laserjet printers and environmentally friendly batteries and correction fluid.

VIEWS AND SUGGESTIONS

- If you have any views and suggestions, please write to our Green Manager. The address is :
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2/F Central Government Offices, East Wing,
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- You may also get in touch with us by e-mail at edb@edlb.gov.hk or by fax to (852)2523 1973.

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