



**Innovation and Technology Commission**

**Environmental Report 2012**



## **1. Introduction**

This is the thirteenth Environmental Report published by the Innovation and Technology Commission, covering the Commission's environmental policy, targets and achievements in 2012.

The mission of the Innovation and Technology Commission is to spearhead Hong Kong's drive to become a world-class, knowledge-based economy. We strive to enhance Hong Kong's competitiveness and develop our city into an innovation and technology hub. We have been working on the following initiatives:

- Promoting and supporting applied research and development (R&D) activities which can contribute to innovation and technology upgrading in industry;
- Fostering university-industry collaboration;
- Promoting technological entrepreneurship in Hong Kong and providing essential support to technology-based entrepreneurial activities;
- Supporting the formulation and coordination of innovation and technology policies and sustain public awareness of innovation and technology;
- Developing world-class support infrastructure including the Science Park and industrial estates, the five R&D centres and the Hong Kong Productivity Council to facilitate technological upgrading and development of the industry and to promote innovation and technology;
- Promoting internationally accepted standards and conformity assessment services to underpin technological development and international trade; and
- Promoting the development of the testing and certification industry in Hong Kong.

## **2. Environmental Policy**

Innovation and technological development cut across different fields, of which environmental management is one. We aim at providing support to Hong Kong industries to develop and implement advanced technologies for environmental management.

This Commission is also committed to providing a green office environment at the workplace and to ensuring that our operation is conducted in an environmentally conscious and responsible manner. We also educate our staff to ensure that they are aware of our departmental environmental policy and initiatives as well as their responsibilities such that they can participate actively in protecting the environment.

## **3. Support Measures to the Industry on Environmental Matters**

Local industries and the society at large are more conscious about the environment than before. Industries recognise the need to adopt cleaner and more environmentally friendly technologies. The Commission continues to provide funding support to the development and adoption of clean environmental technologies and processes in Hong Kong. Funding is available for environmental technology-related projects under the Innovation and Technology Fund (the Fund).

The assessment panels for the respective programmes under the Fund would vet environment-related applications. The panels also monitor the implementation of these funded R&D projects.

In 2012, the Fund provided funding support to nine environment-related R&D projects with a total commitment of about \$35.8 million. Some examples are:

- Large-scale Study on Realization and Application of SANI Process in Sewage Treatment in Hong Kong
- Developments of Key Technologies and Demonstration Systems for Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macau Water Quality and Quantity Remote Sensing Monitoring
- High-Performance and Large-Area Nanomaterials-based Absorbents for Oil Spill Cleanup and their Effects to Aquatic Environment
- Evaluation Technology and Demonstrative Platform for Cross-boundary Air Pollution in the Pearl River Delta Region

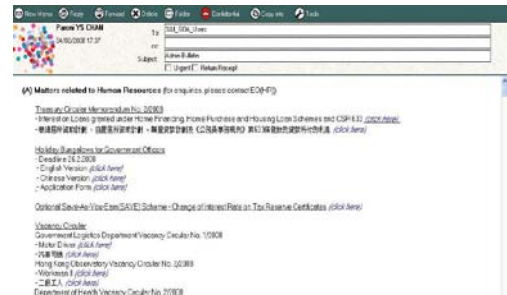
- Development of a Novel Biofilm Carrier to Enhance the Performance of the Moving Bed Biofilm Reactor (MBBR) Process for Treating Domestic Sewage and Industrial Wastewater Under High Loading Condition
- Next Generation Hollow Fiber Composite for Energy Saving Nanofiltration Membranes

#### 4. Green Housekeeping Measures

In support of the Government's efforts to protect the environment, this Commission is committed to ensuring that our internal operations are conforming to environmental protection principles and practices. In 2012, we continued to adopt the following green practices:

##### *Paper Consumption*

- We continued the use of the electronic modes for internal and external communications, official correspondences and information circulation.
- We provided all staff with an individual e-mail account and access to computer terminals connected to the departmental network.
- We continued to use the electronic Admin Bulletin board to disseminate information including telephone directories, training activities, newsletters, circulars, etc.
- We sent festive greetings electronically.
- We put circulars, statistics, directories etc. commonly used on the shared drive.
- We issued press releases and distributed application forms for funding support to members of the public through our website.
- We continued to critically review the subscription of newspapers and periodicals and, where possible, replace them by e-version of magazines and periodicals.
- We provided divisional Green Executives with regular reports on paper consumption to facilitate monitoring at divisional level.
- We used recycled paper in place of white paper.



- We do not use fax cover sheets.
- We avoided delivering unclassified documents in envelopes.
- We used photocopiers and network printers capable of producing double-sided printouts.
- We regularly reminded colleagues to keep the number of paper printouts to the minimum and to use both sides of paper.
- We placed boxes holding single-side used paper beside photocopiers and printers to encourage the use of the blank side of used paper.



### ***Energy consumption***

- We used energy saving fluorescent lamps in our offices. Task lighting approach was adopted for our office at Central Government Offices (Tamar) and there was a lower ambient lighting level (300 lux) in general. The task areas which required a higher luminance level for reading purposes were supplemented with localised lighting by means of table lamps.
- Automatic sensors were installed and widely used in our office areas including open plan office, cellular offices, meeting rooms and store rooms. Lights would automatically be switched off when nobody was in the area.
- We kept reminding colleagues to switch off electrical appliances while not in use and a staff member was designated to turn off all unnecessary electrical appliances after normal office hours.
- We enabled the energy saving feature of computers and office equipment.
- Room temperature was set at 25.5°C to reduce energy consumption.
- Computer servers were consolidated via the latest virtualisation technology for better server utilisation rate and reduction of energy consumption.

### ***Water Conservation***

- Automatic sensor water taps were installed in washrooms at Tamar to reduce water consumption.

### ***Waste Minimisation and Recycling***

- We continued to provide green bags in the office for the collection of waste paper for recycling. 7,498 kg of waste paper was collected in 2012.
- We continued the collection of unwanted Compact Disc (CDs) for recycling. 63 CDs were collected in 2012.
- We collected used printer toner cartridges for recycling.
- We reused envelopes, loose minute file jackets and tags as far as practicable.
- We placed boxes holding used envelopes in common areas to facilitate re-use.
- We reused decorative and festive materials during celebration occasions.
- We used porcelain utensils / glasses instead of disposable ones during meetings.
- We adhered to the government guidelines on reducing food waste and ordered no more than six main dishes to avoid excessive food and unnecessary wastage when hosting Chinese cuisine in restaurant.



### ***Compliance with Clean Air Charter***

- We adhered to the commitments stated in the Clean Air Charter to help improve Hong Kong's air quality.
- Our departmental cars run on petrol instead of diesel fuel.
- We were conscious of the need to reduce energy consumption and implemented energy-efficient measures in our offices.

### ***Indoor Air Quality***

- We participated in the Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) Certification Scheme launched by the Environment Bureau and the Environmental Protection Department. Our office at Tamar and Immigration Tower was certified complying with the “Excellent Class” and “Good Class” of the IAQ Objectives respectively.



- We installed air purifiers in the office to degrade pollutants and kill bacteria in the air.



### ***Green Procurement***

- We took into account environmental considerations when procuring goods and services.
- We procured environmental friendly products such as recycled paper and clutch pencils.

### ***Environmental Education***

- We organised environmental seminars to arouse staff consciousness in environmental protection.
- We issued e-mails to colleagues regularly to appeal for their support of our green initiatives.
- We reminded colleagues of our green measures regularly through an internal circular.

## **5. The Way Forward**

In 2013, the Commission will continue to promote and implement green measures and housekeeping practices. To ensure that the green efforts will be maintained and further improved, we are committed to:

1. providing funding support to environment-related R&D projects;
2. promoting and encouraging the adoption of effective green measures to provide a green working environment;
3. encouraging and promoting staff participation through various channels, such as dissemination of green messages and organisation of environmental seminars;
4. implementing various energy-efficient measures;
5. adhering to the commitments stated in the Clean Air Charter;
6. encouraging wider use of information technology to minimise paper and energy consumption;

7. adopting a green IT approach in planning future computer projects; and
8. equipping our staff with adequate computer facility to facilitate the efficient transaction of departmental business by electronic means.

## **6. Feedback**

We welcome your valuable feedback on this Environmental Report. Please contact the Green Manager of the Commission by :

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This report is also available on the homepage of the Commission at <http://www.itc.gov.hk>.

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