

## Environmental Report 2007

### Food and Health Bureau

#### *Profile of Key Responsibilities*

The Health, Welfare and Food Bureau (HWFB) was re-organised and renamed as Food and Health Bureau (FHB) with effect from 1 July 2007. The policy portfolios of elderly, women and welfare matters under the then HWFB were transferred to the Labour and Welfare Bureau on the same date. After the reorganisation, the Food and Health Bureau is responsible for policy areas of food and environmental hygiene, and health issues. It aims to formulate and coordinate policies and programmes:

- (i) to improve environmental hygiene and ensure food safety in the territory; and
- (ii) to safeguard and promote public health and to ensure that no one is prevented, through lack of means, from obtaining adequate medical treatment.

2. The Food and Health Bureau is organised into two branches for the following responsibilities:

#### Food and Environmental Hygiene matters

- Policy matters relating to food safety, environmental hygiene, agriculture, fisheries, animal welfare and management.

#### Health matters

- Policy matters relating to medical and health services, including provision of hospital services, fees and charges of public medical and health services, health promotion and

prevention of communicable and non-communicable diseases, regulation, self-regulation and development of medical nursing, dentistry and allied health professional and regulation of drugs.

- Policy matters relating to the development of primary health care services, long-term health care policies, regulation of medical technologies and research, development of Chinese medicine outpatient services, development of large-scale public health information systems, health policy research and anti-smoking and tobacco control policy.

3. The estimated expenditure of the Food and Health Bureau (after re-organisation) in 2007-08 was \$29,050.5 million. The Bureau had 13 directorate officers and 81 non-directorate staff as at 1 July 2007. Its establishment ceiling for 2007-08 was \$33.2 million.

### *Environmental Goal and Policy*

4. The Food and Health Bureau supports the HKSAR Government's initiatives to improve the environment and is committed to helping improve our own environmental performance by:

- (i) compliance with relevant environmental protection ordinances;
- (ii) promotion of waste reduction;
- (iii) advising other bureaux on the impact of their policies on public health;
- (iv) minimising the production of environmental pollutants and/or nuisance;
- (v) improving the general environmental conditions; and
- (vi) saving of resources.

### *Environmental Aspects and Impacts*

5. The policies under the purview of Food and Health Bureau may have environmental impact on various aspects, including waste disposal, air pollution and conservation of the environment. Such impacts would be taken into account when drawing up the policies.

### *Environmental Protection Measures*

6. The following measures are relevant to environmental protection:

#### (A) Under policy areas

##### (i) Clinical waste

To map out with the Hospital Authority and the Department of Health the way forward in delivering Government's objective to dispose of clinical waste in an environmentally sound manner.

##### Performance

*The Hospital Authority and the Department of Health will continue to provide input to the roll-out of the future legislative framework for the control of clinical waste and its management in Hong Kong.*

##### (ii) Smoking and tobacco control

To reduce smoking prevalence and hence improve the air quality and public health, by discouraging smoking, educating the public, particularly the young, on the health risks involved, containing proliferation of tobacco use and protecting the public from passive smoking to the maximum possible extent. Implementation of the Smoking (Public Health) (Amendment) Ordinance 2006 was a major step forward in this regard.

### Performance

*Hong Kong's smoking prevalence is among the lowest in the world. In 2005, 14.1% of the population aged 15 or above were daily cigarette smokers, representing a significant drop from 23.3% in 1982. Since 1 January 2007, smoking ban has been expanded to all indoor workplaces and public places in Hong Kong as well as some outdoor areas such as public beaches, parks, schools and hospitals. There are also tightened restrictions on promotion and advertisement of tobacco products. All tobacco products are now required to bear enlarged health warnings with pictorial contents on the packets or retail containers. Compliance with the smoking ban has been generally satisfactory. Surveys and studies are being conducted on the effect of the new smoking ban and further measures to strengthen tobacco control and reduce smoking prevalence will be considered. The Fixed Penalty (Smoking Offences) Bill was introduced to the Legislative Council with a view to bringing about more effective enforcement of the smoking ban.*

#### (B) Within the office

##### (i) Waste minimisation

- ✎ extended use of recycled paper, including paper stationeries of the then HWFB, even for external communication
- ✎ collect papers used on one side only for drafting, photocopying or printing of single-sided file enclosures
- ✎ circulate posting notices, telephone lines, reports and consultation papers etc. through electronic means instead of using paper
- ✎ post internal circulars and other reference materials on internal bulletin board for access by staff
- ✎ send e-orientation folder, containing the soft copy of a bundle of circulars and papers, to new comers
- ✎ encourage the use of electronic means in both internal

- and external communication
- ✎ keep the number of paper publications and copies of circulars to the absolute minimum (e.g. by circulating a copy to staff only)
- ✎ use plain paper fax machines instead of thermal paper ones
- ✎ avoid sending original documents which have been sent by fax or email
- ✎ reduce the use of fax leader sheet
- ✎ extended use of virtual fax services
- ✎ use double-side photocopiers and place notices near photocopiers to remind staff of double sided copying
- ✎ set "double sided" and "print in grayscale" as default printing modes for all printers
- ✎ not to use envelopes for unclassified documents
- ✎ reuse envelopes, loose minutes jackets and action tags
- ✎ use less paper cups
- ✎ reduce use of greeting cards
- ✎ reuse of decorative materials at festive seasons
- ✎ recover waste paper, newspapers and outdated publication for recycling by placing collection boxes at convenient locations
- ✎ collect used CDs for recycling
- ✎ recover printer cartridges for recycling
- ✎ use recycled printer cartridge
- ✎ extended use of refillable ball pens
- ✎ implement the online booking system of conference rooms instead of keeping paper records
- ✎ review regularly the actual need against monthly supply items that have expiry dates

### Performance

*Generally effective*

#### (ii) Energy conservation

- ✎ remind staff to switch off lights, air-conditioners and

- personal computers outside office hours
- ✎ affix "Energy Saving" stickers at all switches in the office to remind staff the importance of energy saving
- ✎ encourage staff to use staircase for interfloor traffic
- ✎ use energy-saving fluorescent lights
- ✎ re-arrange the switch control of light troughs to maintain sufficient yet minimum lighting during lunch hours and outside office hours
- ✎ remove unnecessary lightings at the reception area and office area
- ✎ turn off lights during lunch hours and when part of office is not in use
- ✎ arrange late-duty officers to conduct checking after office hours to ensure lights, air-conditioners in offices and conference rooms and communal facilities, such as photocopiers are switched off
- ✎ use energy efficient equipment, such as power-saving photocopiers, printers and computers
- ✎ set all photocopiers to energy saving mode when they are not in use for over five minutes
- ✎ keep room temperature at a reasonable level to avoid excessive air-conditioning
- ✎ affix stickers at all air-conditioning switches to remind staff to maintain indoor temperature at 25.5°C

### Performance

#### *Generally effective*

#### (iii) Others

- ✎ remind drivers to switch off vehicle engines whilst awaiting in order to avoid idling emissions and achieve fuel saving
- ✎ implement the Government's "Smoke-free Workplace Policy"
- ✎ organise competition to collect waste papers for recycling; a total of 1,389kg of waste papers was

collected on one single occasion (13% over that of 2006)

- 🍃 use unleaded fuel for departmental cars
- 🍃 encourage officer to dress light, casual and smart
- 🍃 re-circulate "Energy Saving Tips" to all staff members at regular intervals
- 🍃 explore usage of other energy saving devices, such as timer switch for commonly used office equipment

### Performance

*Generally effective*

### *Environmental Awareness within the Bureau*

7. To improve the environmental awareness within the Bureau, a directorate officer has been appointed as the green manager of the Bureau since 1993. The officer has provided a focal point for introducing and reviewing environmental protection initiatives. Staff of the Bureau would be encouraged to attend training/workshops on green management and will continue to identify measures, both under policy areas or within the office, to protect our environment.

### *Commitments under the Clean Air Charter*

8. The Food and Health Bureau supports the Government's determination of improving air quality by meeting the commitments of the Clean Air Charter. The progresses of commitments under the Charter that are relevant to our operations are reported below:

#### (A) Information publication

##### (i) Electricity

The electricity consumed by the former Health, Welfare and Food Bureau from January to June 2007 was estimated to be 459,361\* while that consumed by the Food and Health Bureau from July to December 2007 was

about 411,323\*. The estimated emission of air pollutant was thus as follows:

| Pollutants      | Jan - Jun | Jul - Dec |
|-----------------|-----------|-----------|
| SO <sub>2</sub> | 877kg     | 786kg     |
| NO <sub>x</sub> | 533kg     | 477kg     |
| RSP             | 28kg      | 25kg      |

\* Please refer to the Annex for details.

(ii) Fuel

There were 5 vehicles under our Bureau and the total mileage travelled in 2007 was 112,942km. The estimated emission of NO<sub>x</sub> was 102 kg.

(B) Enhancing energy efficiency

A number of measures have been adopted for enhancing energy efficiency. The details are reported under Part 6B (ii).

(C) Controlling air pollution on high pollution days

The Bureau has already adopted several measures in reducing electricity consumption. We will continue to identify measures that would help to further reduce emission on high pollution days.

(D) Experience sharing

Our staff have attended workshops relating to the Charter and we will continue to participate in experience sharing workshops and seminars in future.



## Estimated electricity consumed in 2007

By HWFB (Jan - Jun 2007)

## (A) Murray Building

|     | Electricity consumed by Murray Building | Percentage of HWFB (based on floor area) | Estimated electricity consumed by HWFB |
|-----|---|--|--|
| Jan | 465,960                                 | 13.27%                                   | 61,832.9                               |
| Feb | 443,950                                 | 13.27%                                   | 58,912.2                               |
| Mar | 459,460                                 | 13.27%                                   | 60,970.3                               |
| Apr | 542,530                                 | 13.27%                                   | 71,993.7                               |
| May | 569,350                                 | 13.27%                                   | 75,552.7                               |
| Jun | 611,610                                 | 13.27%                                   | 81,160.6                               |
|     | 3,092,860                               | 13.27%                                   | 410,422.4                              |

## (B) Citibank Tower

|     | Electricity consumed by Citibank 9/F & 10/F | Percentage of HWFB (based on floor area) | Estimated electricity consumed by HWFB |
|-----|---|--|--|
| Jan | 14,376                                      | 60%                                      | 8,625.6                                |
| Feb | 12,846                                      | 60%                                      | 7,707.6                                |
| Mar | 14,804                                      | 60%                                      | 8,882.4                                |
| Apr | 13,374                                      | 60%                                      | 8,024.4                                |
| May | 12,343                                      | 60%                                      | 7,405.8                                |
| Jun | 13,822                                      | 60%                                      | 8,293.2                                |
|     | 81,565                                      | 60%                                      | 48,939                                 |

$$(A) + (B) = 459,361.4$$

By FHB (Jul - Dec 2007)

Murray Building

|      | Electricity consumed by Murray Building | Percentage of FHB (based on floor area) | Estimated electricity consumed by FHB |
|------|---|---|---------------------------------------|
| Jul  | 647,610                                 | 11.77%                                  | 76,223.7                              |
| Aug  | 618,450                                 | 11.77%                                  | 72,791.6                              |
| Sept | 643,013                                 | 11.77%                                  | 75,682.6                              |
| Oct  | 535,807                                 | 11.77%                                  | 63,064.5                              |
| Nov  | 561,340                                 | 11.77%                                  | 66,069.7                              |
| Dec  | 488,450                                 | 11.77%                                  | 57,490.6                              |
|      | 3,494,670                               | 11.77%                                  | 411,322.7                             |