

*Home Affairs Department
Environmental Report 2006-07*



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Chapter 1 - Overview of Home Affairs Department

Mission

The mission of the Home Affairs Department (HAD) is to enhance communication between the Government and the people of Hong Kong and to facilitate the development of District Administration. We are committed to maintaining Hong Kong as a vibrant, caring and harmonious community. We shall continue to build on our close ties with all sectors of the community and facilitate the administration of Hong Kong in line with changing needs.

Expenditure

In 2006-07, we had a revised estimate of \$1.22 billion. There was an increase of 3% over the actual expenditure in 2005-06. The breakdown by programme area is as follows -

Programme	Actual Expenditure 2004-05 (\$ million)	Actual Expenditure 2005-06 (\$ million)	Revised Estimate 2006-07 (\$ million)
District Administration	497.3	492.0	510.6
Community Building	474.4	466.6	492.5
Local Environmental Improvements	173.4	169.6	165.1
Licensing	35.0	33.3	32.3
Territory Planning and Development	17.4	16.9	16.5
Total:	1,197.5	1,178.4	1,217.0

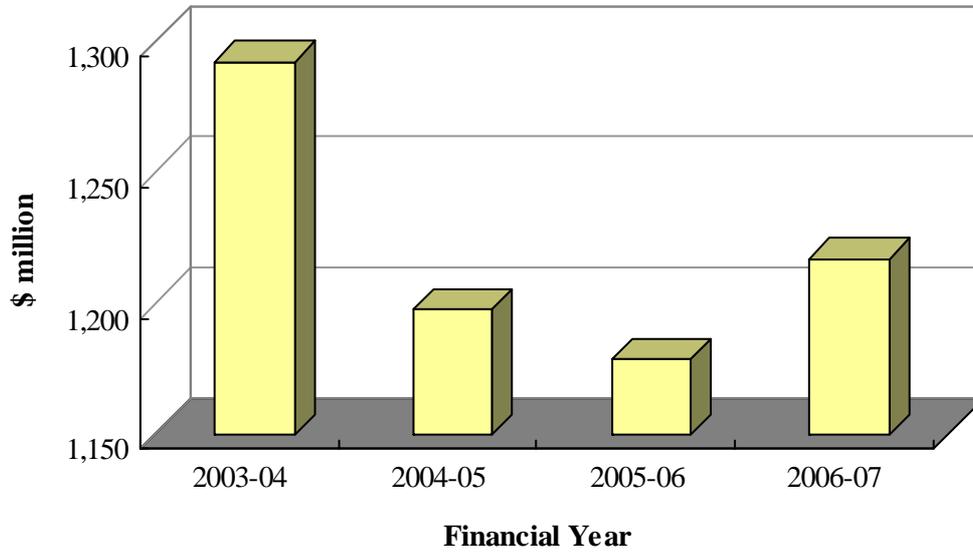
Organisation

As at 31.3.2007, there were 1 711 permanent posts in the department.

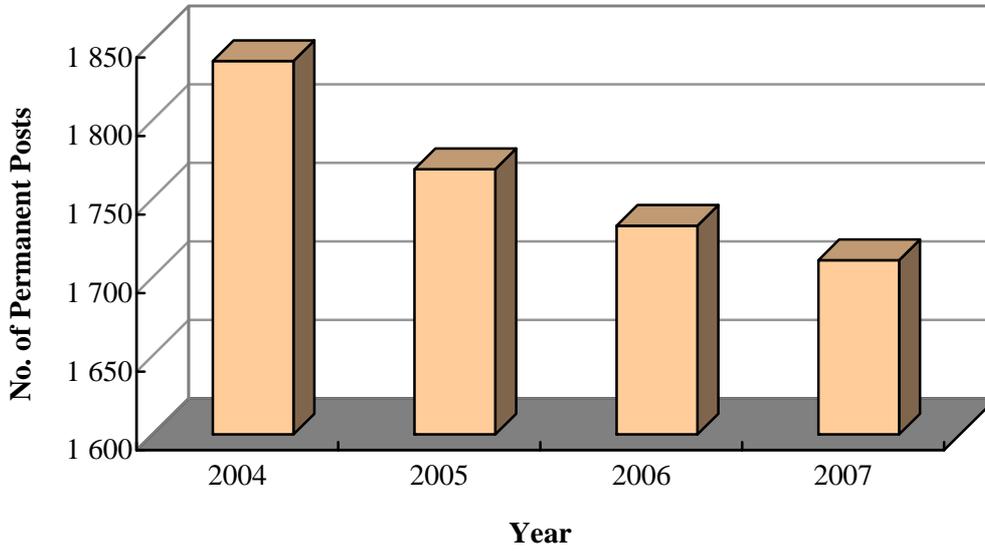
Offices and Facilities

Our offices and facilities spread widely over the territories. While our Headquarters offices were located in Wan Chai, Causeway Bay and North Point, a district office was situated in each of the 18 administrative districts in Hong Kong. Apart from this, there were 20 public enquiry services centres, 48 community halls and 38 community centres providing services for the public as at 31.3.2007.

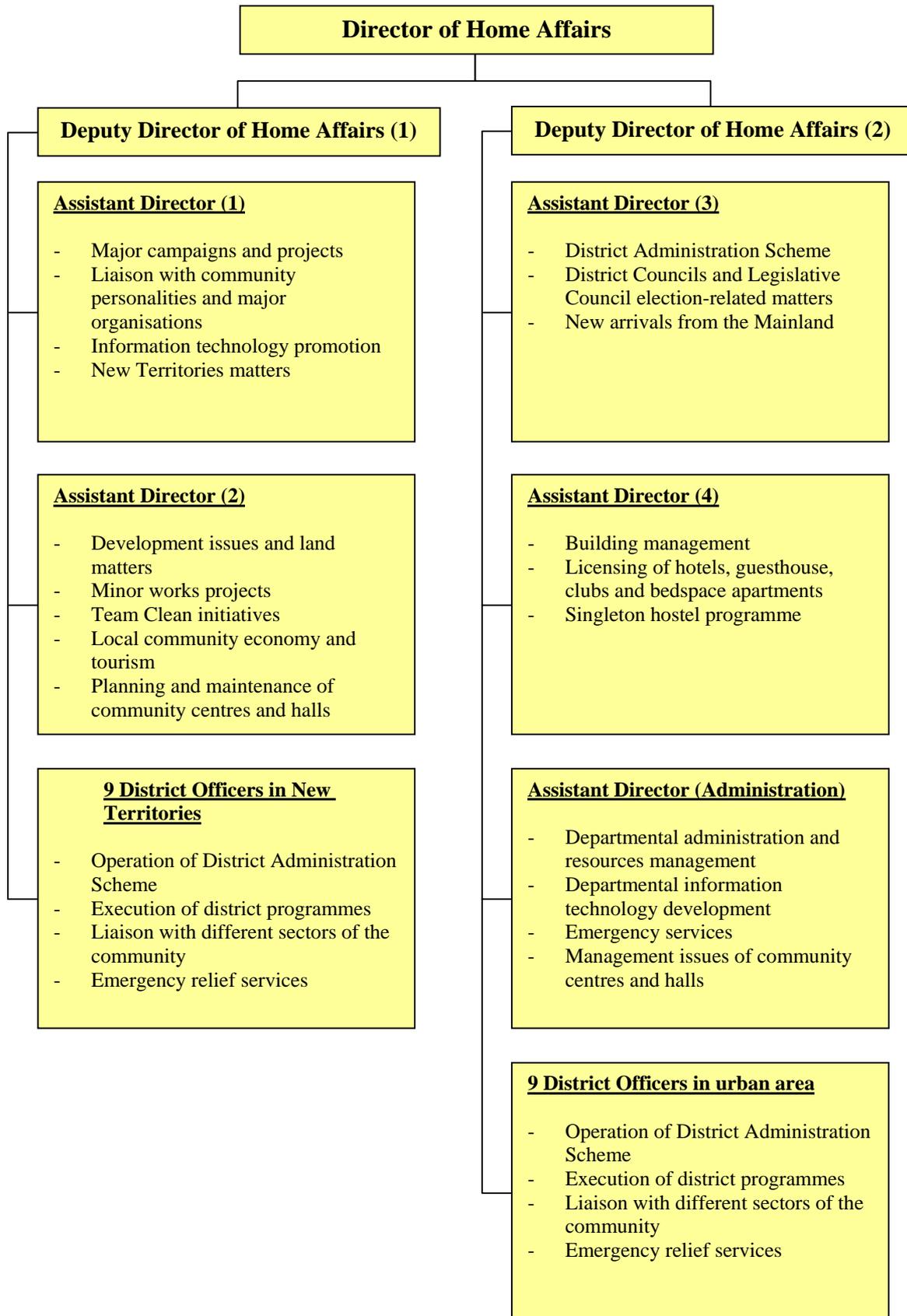
Expenditure in HAD



Size of Establishment in HAD (as at 31 March)



Organisation Structure (as at 31.3.2007)





Chapter 2 - Environmental Policy and Achievements

Our Environmental Policy

HAD is in full support of the Government's policy to protect and improve the natural and living environment, and to achieve sustainable development in the long term. We work to ensure that services offered by our department are conducted in an environmentally responsible manner, and foster environmental awareness through various community programmes and activities that we organise in partnership with community organisations and other government departments.

About this Report

This is HAD's eighth environmental report. It provides an overview of our achievements in 2006-07 regarding the following three major initiatives -



organising **community projects** to promote public awareness and participation in the protection and improvement of the environment;



carrying out **local environmental improvement projects** with due regard to the impact on the environment; and



adopting **green housekeeping measures** and fostering amongst staff an environmental-friendly culture and an appreciation of their environmental responsibilities.

We also set out our targets in 2007-08 at the end of the report.

Summary of Achievements on Targets for 2006-07

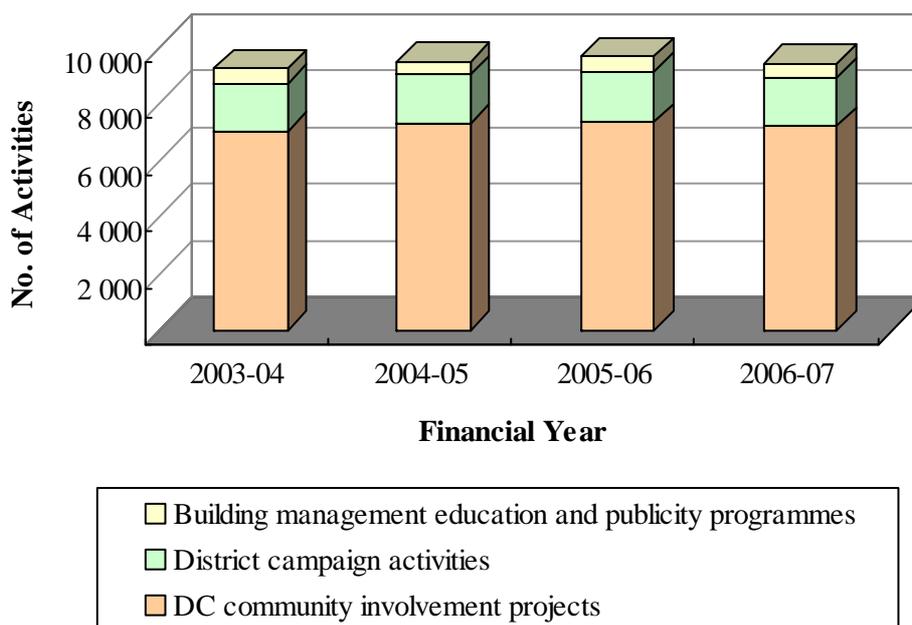
Objective	Achievement
To organise community projects to foster the community's awareness of environmental protection issues	Over 9 400 community projects including those on promotion of environmental protection were organised in 2006-07.
To provide facilities to improve the quality of local environment	Over 850 local environmental improvement projects were carried out in 2006-07.
To ensure the least adverse impact on the environment in carrying out minor works	On-going.
To seek continuous improvement in our internal green housekeeping measures	Waste paper collection increased by 15% in comparison with 2005-06. Used toner cartridges collection doubled the achievement in 2003-04.



Chapter 3 - Community Projects

HAD is responsible for facilitating the development of the District Administration Scheme. The aim of the Scheme is to achieve a more effective coordination of government activities in the provision of service and facilities at the district level, ensure that the Government is responsive to district needs and problems, and promote public participation in district affairs. Through 18 district offices, HAD works closely with District Councils (DCs), District Management Committees, Clean Hong Kong District Promotion Committee (CHKDPC), District Clean Hong Kong Committees (DCHKCs), Area Committees, District Fire Safety Committees, Mutual Aid Committees (MACs), Owners' Corporations (OCs), etc. to encourage volunteerism and public participation in various types of community building activities.

Community Projects Organised by HAD



Apart from the above, the Chief Executive announced in May 2003 the setting up of Team Clean. The mission was to establish and promote a sustainable, cross-sectoral approach to improve environmental hygiene in Hong Kong. Team Clean recognised that the district administration system would play a key and pro-active role in monitoring local conditions and devising new initiatives to engender a sense of individual responsibility and collective community pride in environmental hygiene. HAD was tasked with a central coordinating role for inter-departmental efforts in district hygiene improvement, as well as community involvement and civil education.

In 2006-07, we organised over 9 400 community projects. An outline of those activities with a view to making Hong Kong a clean and hygienic city, promoting

environmental protection and enhancing public awareness, support and participation in the matters are provided below.



Clean Hong Kong Programme aimed to bring about an overall improvement to our city environment. A series of educational and promotional activities including talks on environmental protection, exhibitions, award schemes, residential buildings cleaning competitions, inter-school competitions, etc. were organised at district level to promote the concept of cleaning and protecting our environment.



Eradication of Blackspots aimed to promote a more pleasant living environment and public awareness of community hygiene throughout the territory by involving the community in reporting hygiene blackspots and monitoring their subsequent clean-up. Three phases involving 262 district hygiene blackspots such as rear lanes and vacant Government land were drawn up in 2003 after detailed consultation at the district level. To sustain the cleanliness conditions in Hong Kong, the fourth phase of eradication exercise consisting of the other 73 district hygiene blackspots was launched in July 2006. As at 31.3.2007, 310 district hygiene blackspots out of 335 had been eradicated. Closed-circuit televisions were installed at locations with persistent and recurring environmental problems for monitoring and deterrent purposes.



(Before Clearance)



(After Clearance)

**Eradication of hygiene blackspot in the backlane at 116E Tam Kung Road
Kowloon City District**

Accumulation of rubbish and abandoned articles were removed in the operation.



(Before Clearance)



(After Clearance)

**Eradication of hygiene blackspot at loading and unloading area
Tai Hing Tai Road, Cheung Chau,
Islands District**

During the operation, obstructing articles which had caused various kinds of nuisances and environment problems were removed.



(Before Clearance)



(After Clearance)

**Eradication of hygiene blackspot at rear lane of Chik Luk Lane
Sha Tin District**

Damaged drainage and uneven surface were repaired, blocked drains were cleared, mosquito insecticides were applied and the rear lane was cleansed and washed.



To encourage the local community to play an active role in upkeeping neighbourhood hygiene, we had recruited more than 6,200 **District Hygiene Squads (DHSs)** members since 2003. The squads were volunteers recruited from districts and community groups. They inspected the hygiene conditions of the districts, identified problematic sites for follow-up actions, monitored progress of remedial works and helped disseminate Team Clean messages. They also participated in various cleansing and publicity activities.



To sustain territory-wide cleansing efforts and promote community participation in eliminating environmental hygiene blackspots, all 18 districts had been conducting **Month-end Cleansing Exercises** since May 2003. In addition, we have introduced the **Community Cleanliness Index** since May 2004 so as to measure the cleanliness of Hong Kong in an objective way and on a regular basis.



**Clean Hong Kong Day 2007
Wong Tai Sin District**



**Month-end cleansing exercise
Yau Tsim Mong District**



With a view to **preventing Dengue Fever and other mosquito-transmitted diseases**, a series of environmental hygiene talks, seminars, roving exhibitions, etc. was organised for local residents, local organisations, management companies, etc. Topics included community health, personal and environmental hygiene, disinfection of household and common parts of buildings, proper maintenance of aluminium windows and drainage system, etc. The responses from the participants were encouraging.



**Roving exhibition on "Prevention of Mosquitoes"
to raise public awareness on public health
Southern District**

 In 2006-07, 18 districts had organised more than 340 cleansing activities, including hygiene blackspot inspections, seminars/talks, carnivals, exhibitions, bus parades and a series of activities on the theme **“Epidemic Prevention is Everybody’s Business”**. The activities have attracted over 44,700 active community participations and helped arouse public awareness of the importance of personal, domestic and community environmental hygiene.



Banners were hung territory-wide to disseminate the message of “Epidemic Prevention is Everybody’s Business”



Bus parade on “Epidemic Prevention is Everybody’s Business” and Clean Hong Kong Kwai Tsing District

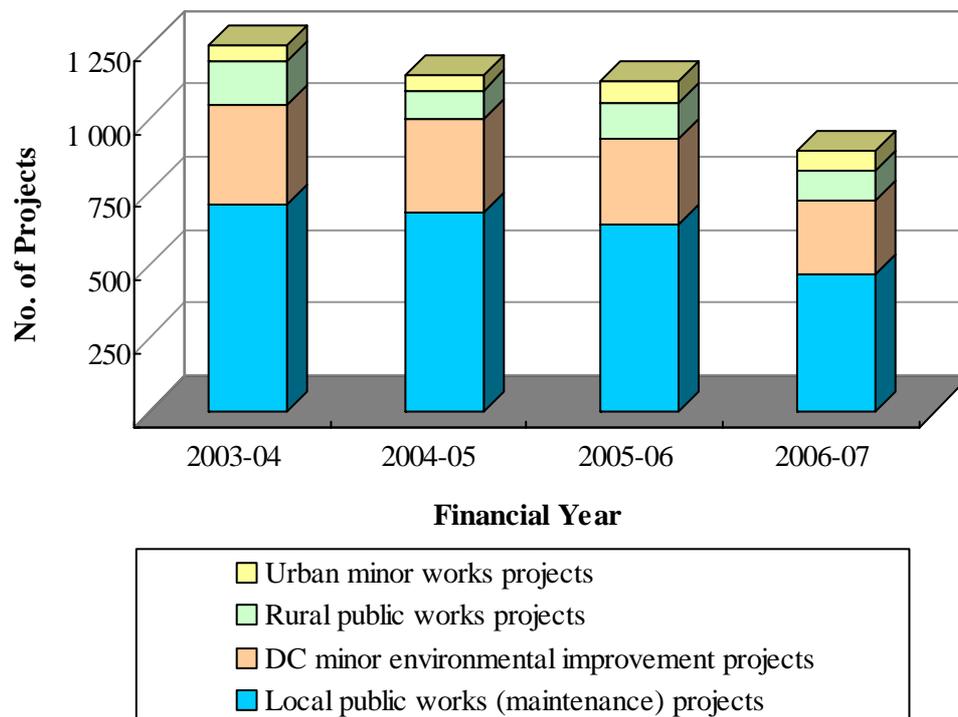
 We continued to disseminate the concept of environmental protection and encourage greening in our community. Promotion was made through education and participation of all sectors of the community including schools, hospitals, business sectors, voluntary organisations, green groups and government departments. In October 2006, we arranged broadcasting vans on Chung Yeung Festival to publicise hill fire prevention message and distribute publicity leaflets at the burial grounds and various hillfire blackspots.



Chapter 4 - Local Environmental Improvement Projects

HAD carries out minor local improvement works with a view to upgrading the infrastructure and improving the quality of local environment.

Local Improvement Works Carried out by HAD



In 2006-07, over 850 projects were carried out. Greening and beautification were two important elements in the projects. For instance, we provided planters on walkways, and turned some vacant government land into green amenity plots and landscaped areas underneath flyovers. A total of 945 trees and 250 200 shrubs and annuals were planted in the projects.

Since all the improvement projects were generally minor and localized in nature, significant environmental impact of the projects on the surrounding environment was not envisaged and the requirement for a full Environmental Impact Assessment was usually unnecessary. Nevertheless, to better address the increasing public concern for projects to be in harmony with the surrounding environment, especially in the scenic areas, we introduced measures in the design and construction of the projects to help ensure that our minor works projects caused the least impact on the adjacent environment.



(Before Works)



(After Works)

**Reconstruction of van track and footpath at Chuen Lung Village
Tsuen Wan District**



**Construction of van track leading
from Tai Wo to Tai Wo Public School
Tai Po District**



**Improvement works at Hip Wo Street
/ Wan Hon Street Sitting-out Area
Kwun Tong District**



Design Considerations

We avoided construction of bulky concrete features such as retaining walls and dwarf walls with plain concrete finishes and the sole concrete paving in footpath upgrading works especially in country parks areas. We used gabion wall type retaining structures abutting stream course embankment with streambed lined with natural/subdue coloured cobbles and stones instead of building conventional type reinforced concrete channels. Vegetation cover, instead of sprayed concrete, was adopted as far as possible for slope protection. For projects falling within the country parks, we sought advice from the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department and complied with its guidelines. With regard to projects affecting natural streams and rivers, guidelines and precautionary measures promulgated by the Development Bureau were followed to minimise adverse impacts arising from construction works.



(Before Works)



(After Works)

Construction of storm water channel at Pak Shek Wo San Tsuen, Hang Hau Sai Kung District



(Before Works)



(After Works)

Improvement works at Big Wave Bay Village Southern District



Guidelines for Staff

A set of guidelines with the following main points was drawn up for the design and implementation of minor works projects -

- ✓ Special attention was given to projects falling within or in close proximity to country parks, special areas, conservation areas, marine parks or marine reserves, sites of special scientific interest, fish cultural zones, wild animal protection areas, coastal protection areas and bathing beaches. In addition, the requirements as stipulated in other environmental control ordinances were also followed.
- ✓ All new minor works projects were designed to avoid or minimize impacts/damages to the natural environment including flora, fauna and wild life habitats. Felling of trees was avoided as far as possible. Hard and soft landscaping mitigation measures would be considered as necessary.

- ✓ Appropriate environmental pollution control clauses were incorporated into all works contracts for implementation during construction. Site supervisions were carried out to ensure that contractors' obligations to environmental protection were fully met.
- ✓ Upon completion of the works, all works sites and areas in close proximity to the projects were cleared of construction debris. Disturbed areas were reinstated by hydroseeding or turfing, and suitably landscaped as far as possible.
- ✓ Technical advice and requirement were prepared and given to works staff and contractors on the prevention and control of mosquito breeding on works sites during the period of construction. Regular site inspections were conducted to clean up all drains and channels under the maintenance of HAD to avoid accumulation of stagnant water and to eliminate possible mosquito breeding places.



**Beautification works to pedestrian way adjacent to Whitty Street Tram Terminal
Central and Western District**



**Replace and repair of pavilions in Jordan Valley Morning Walk Trail
Kwun Tong District**



Chapter 5 - Green Housekeeping Measures

We are committed to ensuring that our daily office operations are conducted in an environmentally responsible manner. To this end, our Assistant Director (Administration) is appointed as the Departmental Green Manager to oversee and take forward green housekeeping measures. Views are exchanged with district managers at in-house meetings. Guidelines on green management are also circulated to staff at regularly intervals.

In early 2003, the Government launched an economy drive internally as part of the continuing commitment to ensuring cost-effective use of resources. Amongst others, all government bureaux and departments were recommended to make the best endeavours to reduce electricity and paper consumption. The targets were to reduce the consumption in the two aspects by an average of 1.5% and 2.5% per year respectively over four years, with 2002-03 as the base year. A brief account of our achievements made and the housekeeping measures adopted in HAD are provided below.

Electricity Consumption

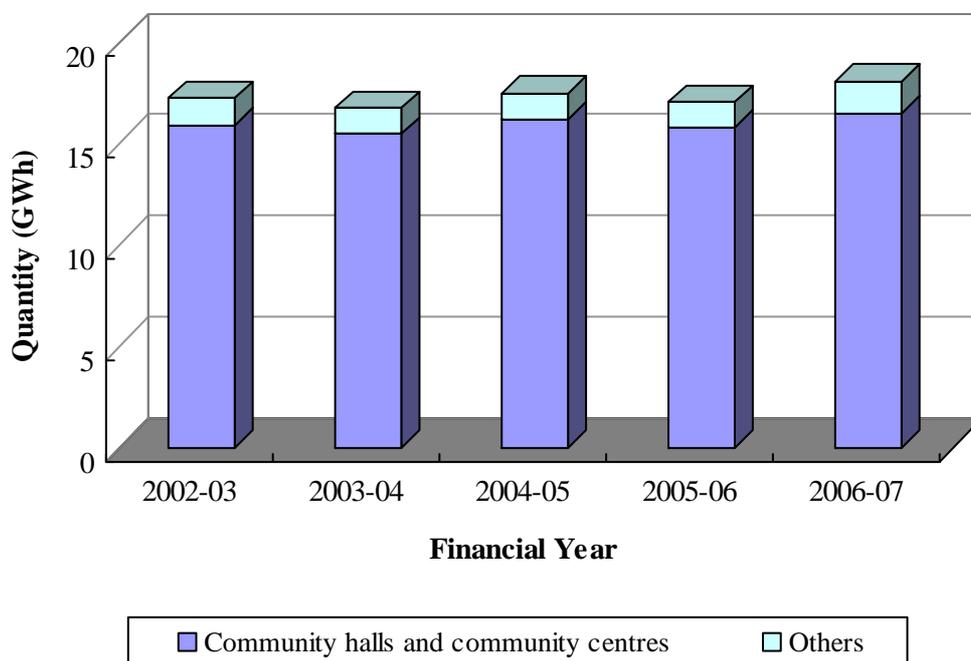
With effect from 2002-03, we collected electricity consumption statistics from all our offices and facilities in accordance with the method suggested by the Environment Bureau, i.e. including the consumption of all electricity accounts registered under HAD, irrespective of the actual users and the final payers. Based on the electricity bills available, the total electricity consumption of HAD in 2006-07 was 18.1 GWh. In comparison with 2002-03, there was an increase of 4.6%. Community halls and community centres continued to be the major users of electricity in HAD, accounting for 92% of the total consumption.

We were unable to meet the 6% accumulative reduction target in 2006-07. This was attributed to the additional provision of 10 community halls since 2002-03. The hot weather in 2006-07 also played a part in the rise in electricity consumption. We provided nine designated heat shelters with air-conditioning supply for the public from 2230 hrs to 0830 hrs on the following day when the Very Hot Weather Warning issued by the Hong Kong Observatory was in force at 1630 hrs. The heat shelters had been in operation for six nights in 2006-07 but none in 2002-03.

We were not optimistic for a reduction in electricity consumption in the coming years since four new community halls were expected to be fully-fledged in 2007-08 and additional community halls were in the pipeline. Nevertheless, we would continue to urge all offices to closely monitor their electricity consumption and adopt green measures such as –

- 💡 conducting routine checking to switch off lights, air-conditioners and office equipment outside office hours;
- 💡 encouraging staff to use staircases for inter-floor traffic;
- 💡 reducing unnecessary illumination and air-conditioning supply; and
- 💡 set room temperature to 25.5°C during summer.

Electricity Consumption



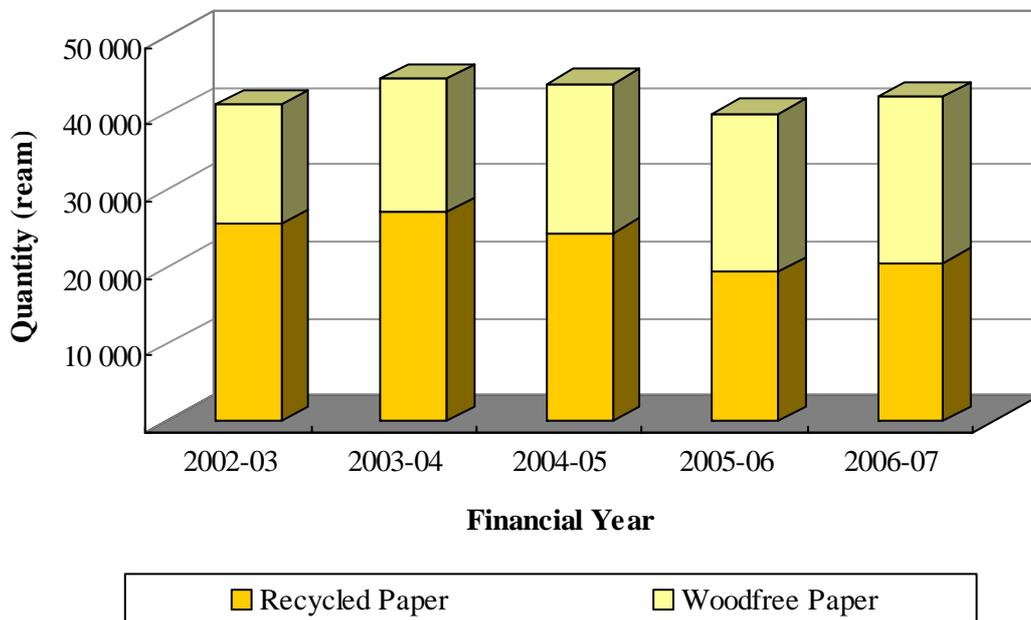
Paper and Envelope Consumption

We continued to collect statistics on actual consumption of photocopying paper from all HAD offices. The aggregated figure represented the total paper consumption in HAD including offices and public service facilities like public enquiry services centres, community halls and community centres.

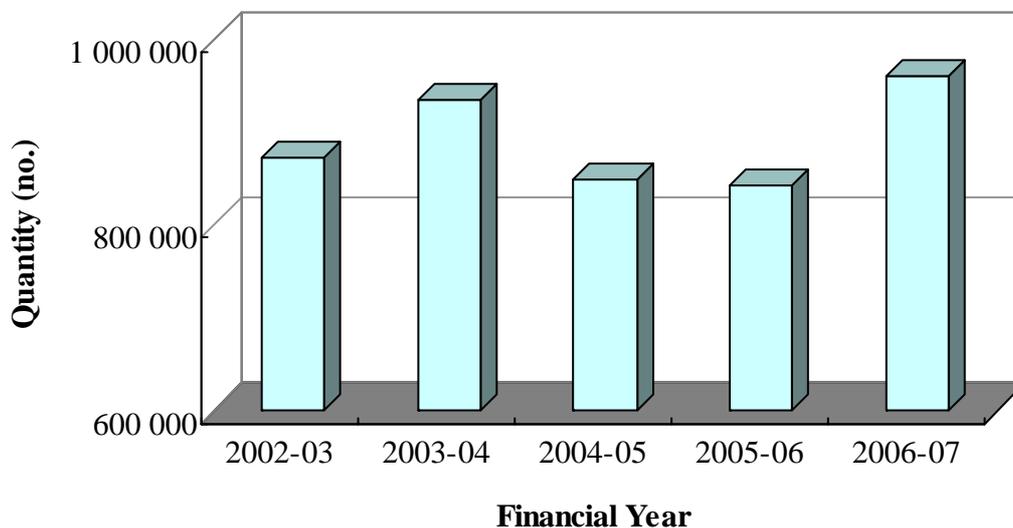
In 2006-07, the total paper consumption in HAD was 42 000 reams, representing an increase of 5% over the figure in 2005-06. Although we were unable to meet the 10% accumulative reduction target because of new tasks and strengthened requirements in tendering procedures, we would continue our efforts in paper saving.

As regards envelopes, the data collection method was the same as that for photocopying paper. In 2006-07, our total consumption was 960 000 nos., representing a 14% increase in comparison with 2005-06. The increase was attributed to the publicity activities and electoral campaigns for Village Representative Election held in January and February 2007.

Paper Consumption



Envelope Consumption



We would continue to closely monitor the consumption of paper and envelopes in the department. Green measures as shown below would be continued in 2007-08 -

 using the blank side of used paper for drafting and photocopying internal reference materials;

 encouraging double-sided photocopying;

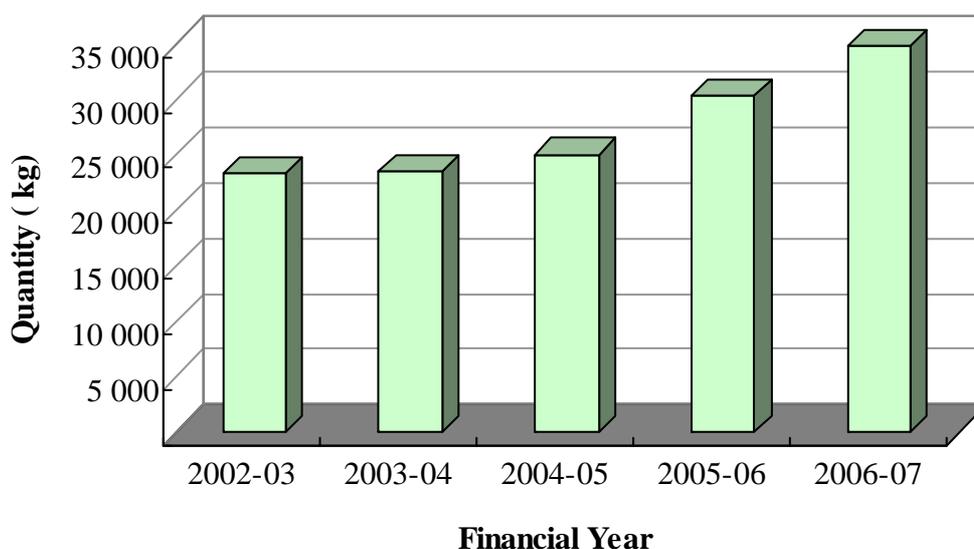
- ✿ issuing departmental notices through electronic means;
- ✿ minimising photocopies and copies of circulars;
- ✿ dispensing with envelopes for unclassified documents;
- ✿ reusing envelopes and file covers; and
- ✿ encouraging communication through electronic means.

Recycling

All HAD offices were included in compiling statistics on waste paper collected except for those without such records, e.g. those situated in joint-user buildings with the waste paper centrally collected by a contractor who kept no records on individual users. The aggregated figure represented the total weight of waste paper collected for recycling in HAD.

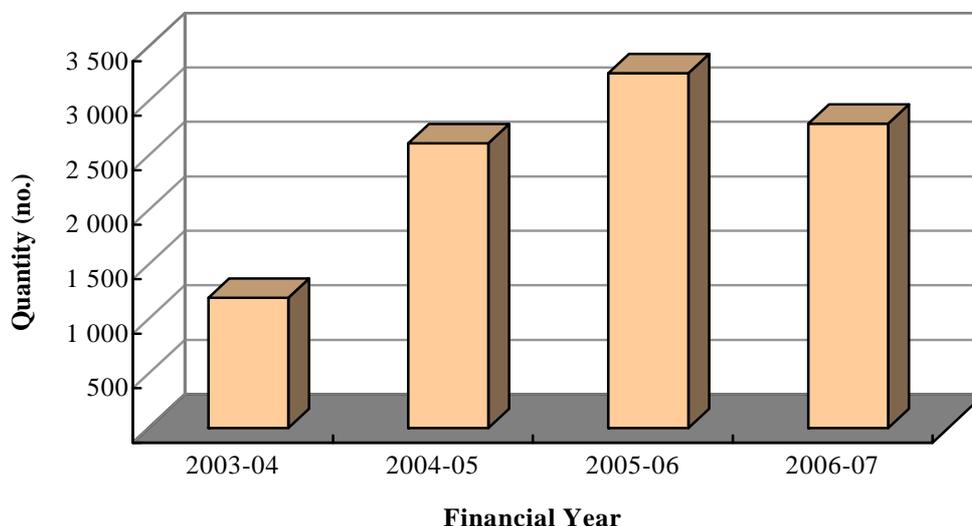
In 2006-07, 34 000 kg of waste paper was collected from five headquarter offices and 16 district offices in HAD for recycling. This was 15% and 49% higher than the achievements in 2005-06 and 2002-03 respectively. Over the past five years, we collected waste paper at an average of 27 480 kg per year. We would continue to keep up with the efforts in the coming year.

Collection of Waste Paper for Recycling



With effect from 2003-04, users, in exchange for new toner cartridges, were required to return the used ones for recycling purposes. The total number of used toner cartridges collected in 2006-07 was about 2 795, doubling the amount in 2003-04.

Collection of Used Toner Cartridges for Recycling



Procurement

To further support environmental protection, we adopted green-purchasing measures as follows -

-  purchasing in an environmentally friendly manner, e.g. procurement of CDs with minimum package (i.e. without a disk container);
-  including "trade-in option of stores items" in quotations; and
-  making direct purchase through the Government Logistics Department which had adopted green purchasing.

Staff Functions

We continued to promote staff awareness of environmental protection and green management. Apart from the provision of a green workplace to staff by decorating offices with plants, we also encouraged their participation in the following meaningful events held in 2006-07 -

-  **Walk for Nature** which aimed at highlighting the need for conservation of Hong Kong's environment through increasing the public's awareness and appreciation of nature;
-  **The Conservancy Association -- Eco Race 2006** which aimed at arousing public awareness on nature and culture heritage conservation;



Community Chest Green Day 2006 which aimed at arousing public awareness on environmental protection;



Tree - Planting Challenge 2007 which aimed at restoring mountain slopes which were ruined by hillfire as well as spreading the message of "Save Trees, Conserve Nature"; and



WWF Hong Kong Big Bird Race - Mini Race 2007 which aimed at promoting the birdwatching activity and highlighting the need for conservation of Hong Kong's natural environment.



Chapter 6 - Into Year 2007-08

Targets

We are committed to upholding our environmental goals and policies in our work and operations. For the year 2007-08, we will continue to -

- organise community projects to foster public's awareness of environmental protection issues;
- provide facilities to improve the quality of local environment;
- ensure the least impact on the environment in carrying out local environmental projects; and
- seek continuous improvement in our internal green housekeeping measures.

We look forward to reporting our progress on these objectives, and on our other campaigns and initiatives, in our next report. By continuing to work together towards a cleaner, greener environment, we will ensure a healthier tomorrow for the community.

Feedback

We welcome feedback on this report for future improvement. If you have any comments or suggestions on what we have or should have done, you may send them to our Departmental Green Manager through any of the following channels -

Mail: 29/F Southorn Centre
130 Hennessy Road
Wan Chai
Hong Kong

Fax: 2834 7649

E-mail: hadenq@had.gov.hk

For green management reason, no printed copies of this report are produced for distribution to the public. All interested parties are welcome to view or download it at our homepage as follows -

<http://www.had.gov.hk/>

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