CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(ET)052

Question Serial No.

0266

Head : 44 Environmental Protection
Department   Subhead (No. & title):

Programme :   (7) Community Relations

Controlling Officer : Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : With regard to the Visitors Centre and three Environmental Resource Centres of the Environmental Protection Department (EPD), please list out the patronage, usage of various services provided and the expenditure of each centre in 2003-04. Does the EPD have any plan to set up more of such centres? If yes, please provide the details and list out their estimated expenditure.

Asked by : Hon. EU Yuet-mee, Audrey

Reply : The patronage, usage of services and expenditure of the Visitors Centre and the three Environmental Resource Centres (ERC) are provided below. The Visitors Centre provides information on Government's environmental protection work and programmes while the ERCs provide environmental education for the general public. We have no plans to set up new centres in the near future.

Item	Visitors Centre	Wan Chai ERC	Tsuen Wan ERC[1]	Fanling ERC[2]
Patronage in 2003	1,153 visitors	21,423 visitors	10,486 visitors	24,066 visitors from mid-Aug to Dec 03 (i.e. 64,176 visitors in full year as projected)
No. of education programmes/ guided visits organized in 2003	45	323	197	218 from mid-Aug to Dec 03 (i.e. 581 in full year as projected)
Annual Recurrent Expenditure ($)M	$0.06M	$0.656M	$1.029M	$1.668M

Notes:
(1)The operation of the Tsuen Wan ERC from April 03 to March 05 has been contracted out to Green Power with funding from the Environment and Conservation Fund.
(2)The Fanling ERC has commenced operation since mid-August 03.

Signature _____

Name in block letters   ROBERT J. S. LAW

Post Title   Director of Environmental Protection

Date   24 March 2004