

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2004-05
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(ET)040

Question Serial No.

0457

Head : 44 Environmental Protection

Subhead (No. & title):

Department

Programme : (6) Environmental Assessment and Planning

Controlling Officer : Director of Environmental Protection

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

Question : What are the major mechanisms for the cross-boundary co-operation between the HKSAR Government and the Mainland Government in environmental impact assessment and planning at present? What are the establishment and expenditure involved? What are the specific items for co-operation in the coming year 2004-05?

Asked by : Hon. CHOY So-yuk

Reply : The major mechanism for cross-boundary co-operation between the HKSAR and the Mainland Government in environmental impact assessment (EIA) and planning is the Mirs Bay and Deep Bay (Shenzhen Bay) Areas Environmental Management Special Panel set up under the Joint Working Group on Sustainable Development and Environmental Protection. The Special Panel is co-chaired by the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) of the Hong Kong SAR Government and the Shenzhen Environmental Protection Bureau. The Joint Working Group is co-chaired by the Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works of the HKSAR Government and the Director of the Environmental Protection Bureau of the Guangdong Provincial Government. In addition, the Environment, Transport and Works Bureau and EPD have arranged exchanges with the State Environmental Protection Administration on EIA matter since this year.

The staff establishment in the EPD directly involved in cross-boundary EIA and planning works is 1 Senior Environmental Protection Officer, 2 Environmental Protection Officers and 1 Environmental Protection Inspector. The corresponding expenditure including both staff costs and operating expenses for the Financial Year 2004-05 is about \$ 2.24 million.

The specific items for cooperation on cross-boundary EIA and planning in 2004-5 are:

- to examine and exchange information on the findings of the environmental impact assessment studies, and any related design submissions, of cross-boundary projects, including the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge Hong Kong Section and North Lantau Highway Connection, Tonggu Channel of Shenzhen Port, Submarine Gas Pipeline from Cheng Tou Jiao Liquefied Natural Gas Receiving Terminal in Shenzhen to Tai Po Gas Production Plant in Hong Kong and Shenzhen Western Corridor;
- to conduct half-yearly regular audits on the implementation of action plans for the protection of Mirs Bay and Deep Bay environment; and
- to enhance the sharing of experiences, knowledge and practice with the State Environmental Protection Administration on EIA matters and co-operate on EIA training activities.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ ROBERT J. S. LAW

Post Title _____ Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____ 24 March 2004