

**Major On-going Initiatives to
Improve Regional Air Quality**

1. To achieve the 2010 emission reduction targets, the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government and the Guangdong Provincial Government –

- (a) have been publishing a daily Regional Air Quality Index to the public since November 2005;
- (b) announced the implementation framework of the “Emission Trading Pilot Scheme for Thermal Power Plants in the Pearl River Delta Region” in January 2007¹;
- (c) signed the “Cooperation Agreement to Promote Energy Efficiency, Cleaner Production and Comprehensive Utilisation of Resources to Enterprises in Hong Kong and Guangdong” in August 2007;
- (d) completed a Mid-term Review of the Management Plan in December 2007 and reaffirmed our commitment at top levels to achieve the 2010 emission reduction targets;
- (e) release reports on the monitoring results of the Pearl River Delta Regional Air Quality Monitoring Network on a half-yearly basis; and
- (f) launched the “Cleaner Production Partnership Programme” to encourage Hong Kong-owned factories operating in the PRD Region to adopt cleaner production technologies and practices from April this year. Furthermore, we have been collaborating with the Economic and Trade Commission of

¹ We have enacted the Air Pollution Control (Amendment) Bill 2008 in July this year to provide a statutory framework for emission trading between power plants in Hong Kong and the PRD Region.

Guangdong Province on promoting energy efficiency and cleaner production to the industrial enterprises in both places.

2. Meanwhile, the Guangdong Provincial Government continues to work towards the 2010 emission reduction targets by implementing the measures under the Management Plan, including those recommended in the Mid-term Review. Some of the recent measures include –

- (a) progressively supplying National III motor fuels to the PRD Region since January 2008 and expanding the supply network to cover all cities in the region by the end of 2008;
- (b) requiring newly registered motor vehicles in the Guangdong Province to comply with the National III standards (which are on a par with the Euro III standards) since July 2008;
- (c) further phasing out small thermal power plants (total capacity of 9 660 MW) and other polluting industries of low production efficiency, including cement plants (total production volume of 38 million tonnes) and metal and steel plants (total production volume of 16 million tonnes), by the end of 2010;
- (d) requiring new coal-fired power plants to install NO_x removal equipment;
- (e) tightening emission standards for boilers for industrial and commercial uses;
- (f) strengthening cleaner production requirements for industrial sectors that produce VOC-containing products;
- (g) setting limits on the VOC contents of consumer products;
and

- (h) taking steps to enhance emission control of local vessels.

**Environment Bureau
October 2008**