

Transcript of SETW meet-the-media session

Following is a transcript of the Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works, Dr Sarah Liao's stand-up session after officiating at the opening ceremony of the Environmental Protection Festival today (January 30):

Reporter : Would the government introduce ant-eaters to exterminate the red fire ants?

Dr Liao : I think now we have a foreign species introduced to our ecosystem. Our Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department's staff are doing a very detailed research on what best to be done. Introducing an ant-eater seems to be a simple solution but it may not be the best. We have to consider how to maintain the balance in our ecosystem before we do anything drastic. Introducing a life form which is outside the ecological cycle in Hong Kong has to be carefully considered.

Reporter : Do you think the red fire ants had been spread widely in Hong Kong and is uncontrollable?

Dr Liao : I don't think it is uncontrollable but we have to be careful as to how to handle it and certainly to regain the balance , we would need time and careful planning.

(For the topic on source separation of waste, please refer to the Chinese speech by the Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works, Dr Sarah Liao, at the opening ceremony of the Environmental Protection Festival)

Ends/Sunday, January 30, 2005
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