

"Wyss Yim"

To: <hats@etwb.gov.hk>
Subject: Harbour Area Treatment Scheme Stage 2
24/07/2004 13:49

Dear Sir/Madam

My view on the above -

(1) The scheme deals only with sewage pollution in the harbour but totally ignores shipping contamination. The latter based research studies by myself and my colleagues at HKU is at least as bad as the discharge of sewage into the harbour.

(2) Every year vast sums of government funds is spent on dealing with the treatment of contaminated muds without tackling the source. The cost of the clean up like sewage should be passed on to the owner of ships.

(3) The HKSAR Government should learn (painfully but hopefully quickly) from the clearing of the shipyard in Penny's Bay - a shipping contamination time bomb.

(4) An environmental impact assessment study of all sea-going vessels on their usage and contamination should be undertaken as soon as possible if the HKSAR Government is still unconvinced.

(5) Beware of untested engineering solutions not supported by good science and well-executed pilot studies.

(6) If Hong Kong is to move forward towards sustainable coastal development, all types of coastal usages MUST be integrated.

(7) I concur with some academics that it is a waste of public funds for harbour water cleanup when an unknown proportion of the pollutants comes from outside the HKSAR.

Yours faithfully,
W.S. Yim

Ir Dr W.W.S. Yim DSc (London) - Former Dumping of the Sea Act Panel
Member
Department of Earth Sciences
The University of Hong Kong
Pokfulam Road
Hong Kong SAR
China