

"wong-k-c"

To: <hats@etwb.gov.hk>

Subject: Clean Harbour Options

08/29/2004 03:26 PM

Dear Sirs,

I have studied the document and wish to express my views as follows:-

- a) I agree Option A be adopted;
- b) HATS to be implemented in 2 stages;
- c) I agree the "Polluter Pays Principle".

In addition, I attach suggestions for your consideration.

KC Wong

## **Clean Harbour Consultant**

### **1.0 Introduction**

- 1.1 There are two main sources of pollution to clean harbour. Firstly, there is too much sewage produced over the territory. Secondly, the sewages are not treated before being discharged into the harbour. It is not widely accepted over the territory though "The Polluter Pays Principle" is fair and reasonable. People consider it as a penalty.

### **2.0 The Polluter Pays Principle**

- 2.1 The principle is good. However, all people must be educated on the non-polluting activities. It is the duty of Government. TV is the best media to deliver such education to all people.
- 2.2 For the reason of in lack of environmental education the principle is badly challenged by restaurant operators. In fact, good management and better environmental education may reduce the sewage charge as a result of using less

water.

- 2.2 It is the bad habit of kitchen front-line workers to keep water tap running all over the business hours. If they can be educated that water is precious and they should use less water. Also, using less water is a response to better environmental education.

### **3.0 Marine Dumping**

- 3.1 There are rules governing the ocean-liners on the dumping of refuse into the harbour. However, dumping by local ships, cruises and yachts are quite serious. Such activity is the result of local people badly in lack of environmental education. The terrible scene of floating refuse all over the typhoon shelter is a proof of in lack of environmental education of those people.
- 3.2 With the present harbour water condition even biological treatment is implemented the water will not be clean after 10 to 20 years. Heavy penalty for marine dumping may improve the situation. Similarly, heavy penalty for throwing litter has improved the cleanliness of the city after SARS. Heavy penalty is a lesson.

### **4.0 Conclusion**

- 4.1 It is considered that environmental education may promote the clean harbour strategy. The restaurant operators should educate their kitchen front-line workers in using less water instead bargaining with Government on the sewage charge.
- 4.2 Water is precious is one of the missions of environmental strategies. If all people use less water the harbour must be very much cleaner.
- 4.3 It is considered that environmental education may reduce pollutants running into the harbour. A territory-wide environmental education strategy is a training for all on social responsibility.
- 4.4 In order to make Hong Kong a world-class city, clean harbour is only one of the indicators. Environmental awareness of all the people are indicators everywhere.

## 5.0 Suggestion

It is suggested that

- Government should put more resources on environmental education and environmental education should be started at kindergarten level, in fact education is a training for environmental responsibility – it is a social responsibility;
- Set down hard-and-fast ordinance and code of practice for all people to obey and to follow;
- Promote recycling of garbage, if restaurant garbage is not recycled it will finally turn into sewage and discharged into the sea;
- Heavy penalty for polluters;
- Make it mandatory for TV broadcasting to spend certain time in delivering environmental education to all people.