

Dear Sir / Madam,

I applaud your initiative and progressive plans for cleaning up the magnificent harbour of Hong Kong.

Fragrant Harbour, for many years had been tarnished by the industrialization and commercialization of Hong Kong. The old Kai Tak Airport fittingly demonstrated the phrase "a first impression is a lasting impression" to foreign, as well as local air travelers. (Foul smell greeted travelers the moment cabin doors were unlocked.) Similarly, the world famous Star Ferries continue to provide foreign visitors close encounters of the sewage infested waters of Hong Kong.

The magnificent harbour has been crying out for help for years and your plan will make a sweeping improvement and difference to the environment.

Sewage treatment aside, the shipping and fishery industries must work in concert with your best efforts in order to yield the desired effects for the harbour. Ships of certain size and modern design have organic waste treatment facilities, as for the smaller and older vessels, the situations are quite different. In addition, a lot of seaside residential dwellings do not have connections to sewage networks!

As to the planned development of a massive central waste treatment plant, has any consideration been made to the possibility of leakage of the pipe lines / pump systems? (Questionable construction, material fatigue, corrosion over time and accidents do happen!) The possibility of sewage leakage from underneath the harbour would be un-imaginable. Therefore, would the construction of separate regional treatment plants be more safe and cost effective?

Being a Hong Kong loving citizen (abate a non-technically minded one), I shall be most grateful if the above comments would be given due consideration. Hopefully, one day, the Fragrant Harbour will once again become a 'claim of fame' rather than Hong Kong's name of shame.

Yours faithfully,

Dennis H. Ip

---