

## **LegCo Panel on Planning, Lands and Works**

**Meeting on 18 October 2000**

### **Question on Slope Safety**

The Geotechnical Engineering Office (GEO) of the Civil Engineering Department (CED) has a systematic programme to maintain public awareness on slope safety and to assist private slope owners to maintain their slopes. The programme includes the following :

**(a) Publicity and Public Education Campaigns on slope safety and slope maintenance**

TV/radio Announcement of Public Interest (API), roving exhibitions, seminars/courses for slope owners and their agents and geotechnical practitioners, guidebooks, educational toolkit for secondary school students, training videos and promotional items such as leaflets and posters. Key messages are :

- Lack of maintenance is a major contributory factor to many landslides in Hong Kong
- Keep your slopes safe  
Safe slopes save lives
- Maintain your own slopes, i.e. private owners are responsible for maintaining private slopes and government for maintaining government slopes

**(b) Public Information Services on Slope Safety**

Since 1992, the GEO has set up a Slope Safety Hotline (Tel. no. 28855888) to provide information to the public on slope safety matters and to answer queries on slope-related matters by a duty officer. In 1999, the GEO has also set up the Hong Kong Slope Safety Website (<http://hkss.ced.gov.hk>) to allow public access to information on the registered 54,000 man-made slopes in Hong Kong. The Lands Department has identified the maintenance responsibility of these 54,000 slopes and allows public access to the information in the Slope Maintenance Information Centre at 1/F., North Point Government Offices; the information will be put on the INTERNET by end 2000.

**(c) Community Advisory Service**

The GEO has set up the Community Advisory Service to provide advisory and information services to private slope owners on matters relating to slope safety and slope maintenance works. Through direct community outreaching services,

we enhance private owners' acceptance of their responsibility for slope safety.

**(d) Financial Assistance**

A new initiative is to provide assistance to owners with financial difficulties to maintain their slopes through a revised loan scheme on building safety improvement to be set up in 2001.

We have seen fruitful results in our work to assist private slope owners on slope safety matters as follows :

(a) Annual opinion survey carried out to gauge the effectiveness of our work indicates that public awareness is maintained at over 70% and over 75% of slope owners understand their maintenance responsibilities.

(b) Since the setting up of the Community Advisory Unit (CAU) in April 1999, we have successfully assisted private slope owners to maintain/upgrade 44 substandard private slopes. Upgrading works for another 30 private slopes are being arranged by private slope owners through assistance from the CAU.