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Territory Development  
Department, Hong Kong

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Kowloon Development Office

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The Honourable CHOY So-yuk  
Chairman, LegCo Panel on Environmental Affairs  
Legislative Council Secretariat  
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Central  
Hone Kong

CB(1) 1299/01-02

The Honourable Chairman,

**South East Kowloon Development  
Decontamination Works at Kai Tak Nullah**

At the LegCo Panel on Environmental Affairs meeting held on 28 January 2002, some Members expressed concern on the environmental acceptability of in-situ treatment of contaminated materials at Kai Tak Approach Channel (commonly known as Kai Tak Nullah).

We completed a Schedule 3 EIA study for the developments proposed in the Comprehensive Feasibility Study for the Revised Scheme of South East Kowloon Development. The Schedule 3 EIA study, approved under the EIA Ordinance in September 2001, includes an assessment of two methods proposed for treatment of the contaminated sediments (about 900,000 cu.m.) in the Kai Tak Approach Channel. They are the in-situ treatment method and the ex-situ treatment method.

The in-situ treatment method involves the injection of chemicals into the sediment layer to accelerate degradation of contaminants in the sediments. The primary advantage of the method is that no large-scale sediment dredging would be required. Odour emission can also be avoided as a result.

In the ex-situ treatment method, the contaminated sediments would be suction dredged and then treated on nearby land using chemicals. The treated sediments may be reused as fill material in the reclamation of the Approach Channel afterwards.



Although both methods have been proven successful overseas, we will conduct pilot test to evaluate their applicability and effectiveness under local conditions. The pilot test, funded under 693CL – “South East Kowloon development – consultants’ fees and site investigation for Kai Tak Approach Channel reclamation”, will start in mid-2002 for completion by end-2002. The test would include laboratory tests and field trials. We will continue to actively liaise with the Environmental Protection Department on the test details, and will recommend a method for full-scale treatment based on the pilot test results. We will have a decision in about early 2003.

Based on the pilot test results, we will carry out under the EIA Ordinance a more detailed Schedule 2 EIA study. The Advisory Council on the Environment will be consulted on the study findings and the recommendations for full-scale treatment. We will apply for an environmental permit before works commencement.

We will be pleased to brief the LegCo Panel on Environmental Affairs on the study findings and recommendations when available.

I would like to take this opportunity to advise the progress of the clean up of contaminants underneath the north apron of the previous Kai Tak Airport. To-date, about 95% of the work has been satisfactorily completed. The remaining work is expected to be finished by mid-2002. We will report to the Advisory Council on the Environment the results of the clean-up work then. We will also be pleased to brief the LegCo Panel on Environmental Affairs if necessary.

Yours faithfully,

(P. L. Kwan)  
for Director of Territory Development

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