



會 學 醫 港 香
The Hong Kong Medical Association

FOUNDED IN 1920 • INCORPORATED IN 1960 AS A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
MEMBER OF WORLD MEDICAL ASSOCIATION AND CONFEDERATION OF MEDICAL ASSOCIATIONS IN ASIA & OCEANIA

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Via Fax & Mail
[Fax: 2869 6794]

17 May 2002

Environmental Affairs Panel
Legislative Council
8 Jackson Road
Central
Hong Kong
(Attn: Mrs. Mary Tang)

Dear Mrs. Tang,

Thank you for your letter dated 2 May 2002 inviting us to the joint meeting of the LegCo Panel on Environmental Affairs and LegCo Panel on Health Services scheduled on 23 May 2002.

We shall not be able to attend the meeting but wish to submit our views on the discussion paper entitled “Proposed Clinical Waste Control Scheme” dated 20 March 2002 prepared jointly by the Environment and Food Bureau and Environmental Protection Department.

The followings are our views:

We have had constant dialogue with the Environmental Protection Department regarding the proposed control scheme and have now no further comments on the Revised Control Scheme.

As regards the treatment of clinical waste, we have studied the proposals of the Administration and formed the following views:

1. The incineration method had been used for a long time for waste disposal and shown to be effective in disinfecting clinical waste.
2. During the incineration process, toxin volatiles like dioxins may be produced. Measures should be taken to reduce this to a safe level. We were informed by the Administration that the level of dioxins emitted by the Tsing Yi plant is very much below that of the internationally accepted level.
3. To ensure the health of the public, especially the residents in Tsing Yi, there should be a transparent and accountable mechanism to monitor the running of the Plant and the level of dioxin produced.



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4. The alternative methods of clinical waste treatment and disposals also have their limitations. A prudent examination of the track record and the cost effectiveness of these methods is required.

5. From the above considerations and also the fact that clinical waste contributes only a very small percentage of waste produced in Hong Kong, incineration of clinical waste is acceptable for the time being. However, we urge the Administration to further explore alternatives means of disposal to meet the need of the future.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Li Siu Lung
Hon. Secretary

c.c. Environment and Food Bureau
c.c. Environmental Protection Department

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