

**For discussion  
on 28 January 2003**

**LegCo Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene**

**Progress Report on the Clean Hong Kong Programme**

**PURPOSE**

This paper informs Members of the progress of implementation of the Clean Hong Kong (CHK) Programme.

**BACKGROUND**

2. In December 2000, the Administration launched a three-year CHK Programme to address the environmental hygiene conditions of the territory and to bring about improvements on the ground. The key elements of the Programme are:

- (a) enhanced Government cleanup operations;
- (b) publicity and public education;
- (c) community and district involvement; and
- (d) legislative amendment and enforcement.

**ENHANCED GOVERNMENT CLEANUP OPERATIONS**

3. In support of CHK, various government departments have been implementing a series of enhanced cleansing services to bring about improvement to our environmental hygiene and cityscape. For example, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) being the lead department for the CHK programme has made the following major achievements.

- Since 2001, FEHD has taken over the cleansing responsibility for over 1,300 “grey areas” (i.e. areas where no government department was responsible for cleansing in the past). These areas include unallocated government land, ungazetted beaches and coastal areas, slopes and soft landscape areas along public roads, channels, etc.
- Since 2001, street cleansing service hours have been extended at over 1,200 locations, and over 200 hygiene blackspots such as backlanes and canopies of older tenement buildings have been cleaned up.
- Since December 2001, static street cleaners have been deployed at over 400 public spots to provide instantaneous litter removal and cleansing.
- Since March 2002, intensive washing of streets, footbridges and subways and gum removal have been conducted in all districts.
- The outlook and facilities of public toilets have been upgraded at a rate of 40 to 50 toilets per year and the roller shutters of over 250 refuse collection points have been repainted.
- Over 560 village-type aqua privies, some 2,000 refuse collection bin-sites, and 34 cooked food bazaars and markets have been thoroughly cleansed.

4. Apart from FEHD, other government departments have also implemented a wide range of action-oriented measures to improve the cleanliness of areas/venues under their purview. Their major contributions are highlighted at Annex. For effective inter-departmental coordination, FEHD is leading an operational group to oversee various departments’ efforts and co-ordinate inter-departmental actions such as comprehensive improvements to backlanes, clean-up of coastal areas, etc.

## **PUBLICITY AND PUBLIC EDUCATION**

5. The Administration has emphasised publicity and public education as a means to raise public awareness of the need to keep a clean environment.

6. In respect of school education, FEHD and the Education and Manpower Bureau (EMB) have already incorporated CHK messages in primary and secondary school curricula. School teachers are provided with multi-media teaching kits such as educational VCDs and on-line teaching materials on the Internet. Separately, FEHD and EMB have been working with green groups and voluntary organizations to organise a wide range of extra-curricular activities such as competitions, outreach programmes, Community Youth Club activities and school talks. Over 60 000 students have benefited from these activities in the past two years.

7. Educational efforts have also been directed at various target groups such as road users, tourists and the elderly. Information packs and pamphlets have been disseminated to these groups through associations of transport operators, churches, travel industry organizations, elderly homes, etc. Activities such as seminars, competitions and voluntary clean-ups are held to engage them in keeping Hong Kong clean.

8. On the publicity front, CHK messages are disseminated to the public through a broad range of vehicles including television and radio announcements of public interests, posters and banners, advertisements on public transport, media interviews, roving exhibitions and large-scale publicity function.

## **DISTRICT AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT**

9. Community involvement is indispensable for successful implementation of CHK Programme. The Home Affairs Department (HAD) has set up 18 District CHK Committees, each chaired by the respective District Council Vice-chairmen, to oversee district educational/publicity activities. Since 2001, the 18 District CHK

Committees in collaboration with local bodies such as mutual-aid committees, owners' corporations, area committees, schools and non-government organisations held over 360 such activities. They include cleaning competitions, cleansing operations, inspections of hygiene blackspots, seminars, carnivals, float parades, etc. Separately, HAD has recruited over 1,600 volunteers as CHK ambassadors to help promote local community involvement.

10. District Council and District CHK Committee members have been taking part in the cleansing operations held by FEHD and other departments at the district level. They provide suggestions and feedback for departments to improve the implementation of various district-based CHK initiatives.

11. In addition, FEHD operates a funding scheme to sponsor schools, residents' and other local organizations for implementing CHK projects. Since 2001, some 190 projects involving over 50,000 participants have been successfully completed. FEHD will continue to support and sponsor these activities and projects in 2003.

## **LEGISLATIVE AMENDMENT AND ENFORCEMENT**

12. The Fixed Penalty (Public Cleanliness Offences) Ordinance, Cap. 570 ("the Ordinance"), which provides for a fixed penalty of HK\$600 for committing common public cleanliness offences, was brought into operation on 27 May 2002. Following a two-week grace period, the seven enforcement departments<sup>1</sup> started enforcing the Ordinance in areas/venues under their charge on 10 June 2002. As at mid January 2003, the Administration has already issued a total of over 10,000 fixed penalty notices. According to our enforcement experience, littering is the most common type of offences (83.8%), followed by spitting (11.9%) and unauthorized display of bills and posters (4.2%). Overall, the Ordinance has been smoothly implemented, and proved useful in improving the cleanliness of Hong Kong.

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<sup>1</sup> These departments include FEHD, Leisure and Cultural Services Department, Marine Department, Hong Kong Police Force, Housing Department, Environmental Protection Department and Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department.

## **WAY FORWARD**

13. In order to ensure the effectiveness and continued applicability of our CHK strategy, we have been reviewing from time to time our multi-pronged efforts to keep the environment clean. We are constantly looking for more impactful means to educate different sectors of the community including the youth and to promote private sector involvement in keeping Hong Kong clean. To track the overall cleanliness of Hong Kong since implementation of the fixed penalty system and other major CHK initiatives, FEHD is conducting a household survey to gauge public opinions on where and how improvements could be made. When the outcome of this survey is available around March 2003, we will fine-tune our strategy accordingly for greater cost-effectiveness of governmental and community CHK efforts.

**Health, Welfare and Food Bureau  
Food and Environmental Hygiene Department  
January 2003**

**Major Clean Hong Kong Measures taken by Departments  
Other than the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department**

<b>Department</b>	<b>Major Clean Hong Kong Measures</b>
Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● launched campaigns to keep country parks and marine parks clean</li> <li>● improved toilet facilities in country parks</li> <li>● promoted proper disposal of maricultural materials</li> <li>● tackled stray dog problem</li> </ul>
Architectural Services Department	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● implemented work projects to refurbish public facilities such as public toilets and public transport interchanges</li> </ul>
Buildings Department	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● removed unauthorized building works in target backlanes and abandoned advertisement signboards</li> </ul>
Environmental Protection Department	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● stepped up control and enforcement against fly-tipping</li> <li>● implemented livestock waste control scheme, waste reduction and resources conservation measures</li> <li>● controlled pollution emissions</li> <li>● enhanced environmental education</li> </ul>
Home Affairs Department	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● coordinated the efforts of various departments in environmental improvement activities at the district level</li> <li>● upkept the cleanliness of District Council facilities such as notice boards and welcome signs</li> </ul>

Housing Department	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• launched campaigns on clean public housing estates, anti-rodent and anti-mosquito issues</li> <li>• promoted residents' awareness in maintaining estates and public areas clean</li> <li>• carried out year-end cleansing operations</li> <li>• improved toilet services at public housing estates and shopping centres</li> </ul>
Highways Department	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• cleansed the expressways, gantry signs, noise barriers/enclosures, footbridges and subways</li> <li>• beautified and refurbished highway structures</li> <li>• conducted a consultancy to improve streetscape</li> <li>• improved cleanliness of roadside worksites</li> </ul>
Lands Department	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• co-ordinated various departments in tackling large-scale fly-tipping blackspots in the New Territories</li> <li>• provided grass-cutting and tree-trimming services for blackspots on unallocated government land</li> <li>• removed abandoned vehicles</li> </ul>
Leisure and Cultural Services Department	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• launched clean beach carnivals</li> <li>• improved cleansing and toilet services at leisure and recreation venues</li> <li>• provided horticultural maintenance and grass-cutting at its venues and along public roads</li> </ul>
Marine Department	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• launched clean harbour campaigns</li> <li>• enhanced cleansing services in typhoon shelters, public cargo working areas and Hong Kong waters</li> <li>• cleaned up foreshores at non-routinely covered areas</li> <li>• educated the public on keeping the harbour clean</li> </ul>
Transport Department	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• improved the management and cleanliness of public transport interchanges</li> <li>• assisted in disseminating CHK messages to road users</li> </ul>