

**For Information on
28 November 2005**

**Legislative Council
Panel on Environmental Affairs**

Indoor Air Quality Management Programme

Purpose

This paper informs Members the progress of implementing the Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) Management Programme, and the work on developing the Programme further.

The IAQ Management Programme

2. The Government implemented the IAQ Management Programme after briefing the Panel on 2 June 2000. A motion on IAQ was carried at the Legislative Council meeting on 22 October 2003 and a progress report on the Government's follow-up actions was submitted to the Council in June 2004. We have since continued to pursue the Programme for raising public awareness of the importance of good IAQ and promoting ways to improve IAQ. The following are the outline and the latest development of the Programme –

Public Education and Publicity Campaign

3. We have set up an IAQ Information Centre since January 2001 to promote good IAQ to the public, by displaying IAQ-friendly products and technologies as well as disseminating relevant information and reference materials. Up to the end of October 2005, over 34,000 people have used the Information Centre, and more than 169,000 people have viewed the Cyber-centre through Internet.

4. The IAQ Information Centre has also organized educational and publicity activities to enhance public awareness of the importance of IAQ. Since January 2001, the Centre has conducted 27 roving exhibitions in major housing estates, Wanchai Sports Ground and Millennium City I.

5. The Centre has published nine publicity pamphlets, four booklets and two posters to help the public to understand the effects and mitigation of various indoor air pollutants, ways to improve IAQ in buildings, homes and vehicles, and tips for healthy renovation.

6. In September 2003, the Government published the "Guidance Notes

for the Management of Indoor Air Quality in Offices and Public Places” to provide comprehensive guidelines for total IAQ management. Also, a CD-ROM named “Striving for Excellent Indoor Air Quality” was produced at the same time to provide a comprehensive set of guidance that had been published so far for easy reference of interested parties.

IAQ Certification Scheme

7. The core elements of the Programme are to establish a two-level IAQ objective, viz. the “Excellent” Class and “Good” Class, and to promulgate a voluntary and self-regulatory IAQ Certification Scheme for Offices and Public Places that adopts the IAQ objective as the benchmark for evaluating IAQ. The Scheme aims to promote and recognise good IAQ management practices and encourage premises owners or management to pursue the best level of IAQ. To join the Scheme, premises owners or management companies have to hire a competent examiner to assess the IAQ of their premises and certify the premises in accordance with its compliance with the IAQ objective.

8. A guidebook entitled “A Guide on Indoor Air Quality Certification Scheme for Offices and Public Places” was published by the Government in September 2003 to provide guidance on participation of the Scheme.

9. The number of participants in the Scheme has grown steadily since its inception in September 2003. By October 2005, 108 IAQ certificates, viz. ten “Excellent” and 98 “Good” class certificates, were issued to various commercial and government premises. Among these certificates, 19 of them are issued to the whole building.

IAQ for Public Transport Facilities

10. In November 2003, we issued a set of professional practice notes for managing air quality in air-conditioned buses and railway facilities in order to provide guidance on how to ensure the maintenance of better air quality inside these facilities and compartments. These practice notes were devised based on a study by Hong Kong Polytechnic University conducted in 2000, and the outcome of consultation with transport facilities and professional bodies.

Further Development of the IAQ Management Programme

11. To help attracting more qualified bodies to participate in the Scheme and ensure quality of IAQ certification services, we are working on a quality assurance programme under the Hong Kong Accreditation Service. This will enable certification of qualified persons as competent examiners for issuing IAQ certificates under the IAQ Certification Scheme. We plan to implement the new quality assurance programme within 2006.

12. Building and furnishing materials are the common major sources of indoor air pollution. To help preventing their emissions, we are exploring the feasibility of means to control or minimize the use of air pollutant emitting building materials. For this purpose, we commissioned the Consumer Council to conduct a preliminary study in 2004 to gather information on overseas emission standards and guidelines for potential emission sources, as well as availability of materials in the local market that can meet those standards. Although the study has found some related overseas guidelines or standards, more efforts are needed to assess if the local supply of relevant local products can support some form of control programme. We are working on a supplementary study for completion in 2006.

Advice Sought

13. Members are requested to note the progress of the implementation of the IAQ Management Programme, and to comment on the further development of the Programme.

Environmental Protection Department
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