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By Fax & Email  
(Fax: 2869 6794)

16<sup>th</sup> February 2007

Legislative Council Secretariat  
8 Jackson Road  
Central  
**(Attn.: Miss Becky Yu)**

Dear Madam,

**Re: Air Pollution Control (Volatile Organic Compounds) Regulation**

I am writing in reply to your letter of 8<sup>th</sup> February 2007.

*VOC Emission and Air Pollution Index*

The total VOC emission in 2005 was estimated to be 40,200 tonnes. The amount of VOC emission (E) from each individual source is estimated by multiplying its activity data (A) with its emission factor (F), i.e.,  $E = A \times F$ . For example, the VOC emission from motor vehicles is calculated by multiplying the total vehicle-kilometre travelled (A) with the emission per kilometre (F). The annual total VOC emissions are estimated by summing the VOC emissions from all relevant VOC emitting sources in the year based on the same calculation method.

The current Air Pollution Index (API) system was implemented in mid-June of 1998. The number of hours per year with API exceeding 100 during 1999 and 2006 are shown in the following table.

	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
	Hours	Hours	Hours	Hours	Hours	Hours	Hours	Hours
<b>General Stations</b>	198	105	88	127	209	276	129	141
<b>Roadside Stations</b>	956	255	463	481	511	1190	419	629
<b>Total Hours</b>	978	278	479	511	548	1250	485	669

*Contribution of Government measures*

We are making good progress in local emissions reduction measures. Apart from sulphur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>), whose emission level has increased due to power generation, the emission levels of all other pollutants have been on the decrease when compared with those in 1997. Generally speaking, 2005 showed further improvements over 2004. Details are as follows:

	<b>Emission Level in 1997 (tonnes)</b>	<b>Changes in Emission Level during 1997-2004</b>	<b>Changes in Emission Level during 1997-2005</b>	<b>Emissions Reduction Targets for 2010</b>
SO <sub>2</sub>	64,500	+47%	+31%	-40%
NO <sub>x</sub>	110,000	-16%	-15%	-20%
RSP	11,200	-28%	-36%	-55%
VOCs	54,400	-23%	-26%	-55%

Apart from that, owing to our programme to curb vehicle emissions, the period of roadside air pollution index exceeding 100 was reduced from 956 hours in 1999 to 629 hours in 2006. The number of smoky vehicles on the roads was reduced by 80% as compared to 1999.

Yours faithfully,

(SHIU Lik-king)  
*for Director of Environmental Protection*

**Internal**  
AD(AP)  
P(AP)