

立法會 CB(2) 2062 /06-07(07)號文件

**Additional views from the Hong Kong Institution of Engineers
on the proposed reorganisation of the Policy Bureaux of the Government Secretariat
for submission to Legco Panel on Constitutional Affairs**

In response to the recent announcement of the Chief Executive on his plan to reorganise the Government Secretariat the Hong Kong Institution of Engineers would like to provide our additional views on the proposal, in particular on the reorganisation of the Environment Bureau.

2. We consider the proposal to include energy and sustainable development into the forthcoming Environment Bureau a positive move to improving our environment and our citizens' livelihood.
3. We believe it is important that the Permanent Secretary (Environment), now having to take up the two additional policy areas of energy and sustainable development in addition to environment, should be given appropriate professional support at senior levels to effectively and proficiently resolve our pressing environmental problems.
4. On the environment agenda, there is a large number of challenging local, trans-boundary, and international issues, including for example regional air quality and emission trading, climate change, implementation of the Harbour Area Treatment Scheme and Government's framework for municipal solid waste management, environmental impact assessments of major infrastructure projects, etc. It is critical that these extremely complex issues are handled with a good understanding of the technical framework that ultimately defines feasibility, before political, social, economic and ecological factors can be weighed and optimised on a rational platform. Most environmental issues are long term projects. To be successful and cost efficient, a strong sense of continuity is imperative. We therefore suggest that the post of Director of Environmental Protection (DEP) should be re-established to support the Permanent Secretary (Environment), rather than having one person taking up both roles. This is the only way to ensure that environmental protection in Hong Kong is given the professional attention that it desperately needs and deserve.
5. We further suggest that the position of DEP should be taken up by an appropriately qualified environmental professional with technical competence and experiences in both public administration and environmental management. This will be essential to effectively appreciate and effectively deal with the very complex environmental issues facing our society today and in the future. As the head of the department, DEP will have to take the leading role in keeping up the professional capability of the department, so as to ensure that environmental initiatives can be effectively put into practice in all sectors. We believe the DEP with professional knowledge and experience in the environmental sector will certainly assist the Permanent Secretary (Environment) in formulating long term environmental strategies for Hong Kong.
6. In view of the forgoing deliberation, the Institution supports the re-establishment of the post of Director of Environmental Protection, and for the DEP to be undertaken by a suitably qualified environmental professional.