

Enclosure**LegCo Panel on Environmental Affairs****Summary of views of the Hong Kong Institution of Engineers
on the proposal to encourage owners of Pre-Euro and Euro I diesel commercial
vehicles to replace their vehicles by offering one-off grant****General**

1. The Hong Kong Institution of Engineers (HKIE) refers to the Administration's proposal to encourage the early replacement of pre-Euro and Euro I diesel commercial vehicles with Euro IV models by offering a time-limited one-off grant.
2. Echoing with the strategic approach of Government to reduce air pollution as set out in the 2006-07 Policy Address, the HKIE is pleased to offer our views on the proposal on various areas.

The Proposal

3. In general, the Institution is in support of Government's incentive scheme to replace pre-Euro and Euro I diesel commercial vehicles as this will help alleviate the air pollution problem, particularly the air quality at near ground level. The use of financial incentives to bring about the desired changes is principally supported.
4. However, the Institution is of the view that this approach alone has the shortcoming of discouraging development of innovative technologies, which may also equally tackle the problem. Comparing with the huge cost involved to replace the pre-Euro and Euro I diesel vehicles, we consider that investment of a modest amount of money to develop suitable technologies is worth pursuing.
5. The Institution also suggests that Government should allow owners of diesel vehicles to enjoy the same financial incentive scheme if their vehicles can demonstrate equal or superior environmental performances of Euro IV vehicles through other means.
6. Notwithstanding this, the Institution urges Government not to overlook the issue of maintenance. We are of the view that proper maintenance of diesel vehicles is paramount to reducing polluting emissions as a badly maintained vehicle, while it can still run on road, is detrimental to air quality in Hong Kong.
7. The Institution opines that the maintenance of diesel vehicles should be carried out by professionally trained vehicle mechanics. Only qualified personnel can ensure that vehicles are up to standard and are ecologically friendly to the surrounding environment.