



40/F, Revenue Tower, 5 Gloucester Road, Wan Chai, Hong Kong
香港灣仔告士打道 5 號稅務大樓 40 樓

Advisory Council on the Environment Comments on Review of Air Quality Objectives

The Advisory Council on the Environment discussed in July 2006 the Administration's proposal of reviewing the air quality objectives (AQOs) and developing a long-term air quality strategy. The Council's views are as follows –

- (a) the Council recognized the utmost importance of improving air quality and considered that the community as a whole should join hands to tackle the common challenge in a forward-looking manner;
- (b) the Council supported the need to review the AQOs with reference to the World Health Organization air quality principles and new air quality guidelines as well as international developments, including whether the existing AQOs should be tightened, whether new air quality parameters such as PM_{2.5} should be established and the need to set interim and long-term objectives;
- (c) the Council urged the Administration to kick off the review as soon as possible and expedite the review process as well as to closely monitor the latest international developments on AQO reviews;
- (d) the Council considered that the review of AQOs should be accompanied by an overall long-term air quality strategy and aligned with complementary policies in other policy areas, such as energy, transport and town planning. A road map on implementing the initiatives and measures would be necessary to achieve the interim and long-term targets;
- (e) the Council considered that the review of AQOs should be conducted in parallel with the formulation of the strategy, thereby saving time required for the process;

- (f) the Council considered that it would be important to assess the health and economic costs of taking the proposed measures as well as the impacts of the new AQOs on prevailing monitoring mechanisms such as the environmental impact assessment and town planning processes as well as the air pollution index and forecast system;
- (g) the Council considered that Hong Kong should take the lead and show the determination to improve regional air quality in close liaison with the Mainland authorities; and
- (h) the Council considered that given the public concern about air quality, different stages of public engagement would be necessary to engage the experts, academics, stakeholders and the general public.