

Enclosure**LegCo Panel on Environmental Affairs****Summary of views of the Hong Kong Institution of Engineers
on Review of Air Quality Objectives (AQOs)****General**

1. The Hong Kong Institution of Engineers (HKIE) refers to the current set of Air Quality Objectives (AQOs) established by Government under the Air Pollution Control Ordinance (Cap. 311) where it sets out objectives to be achieved and maintained in order to promote the conservation and best use of air in the public interest.
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 current AQOs for the planning of a long-term air quality management strategy on various policy areas.

Air Quality Objectives (AQOs)

3. The Institution notices that the AQOs is established in 1987, which is almost two decades ago. After comparing the existing objectives to standards for air pollution of other developed countries and neighbouring Asian economies, our observation is that the AQOs is outdated and falls behind the rest of the world in keeping abreast with the up-to-date standards and requirements for protection of health and welfare of a developed economy.
4. HKIE is of the view that critical review of the AQOs covering both the criteria pollutants to be brought under control and their corresponding quality limits are urgently required to maintain Hong Kong's status of a world class city and a global financial center. We believe that it is Government's responsibility to constantly uphold and maintain its quality standards for pollutants to a level that is agreeable with other developed countries.
5. The Institution opines that the AQOs is an effective way to protect air quality, safeguard the health and well being of the community, and to promote the conservation and best use of air in the public interest. Nevertheless, we are of the view that the current AQOs lack of clear implementation policies and step-by-step procedures to achieve the objectives. In this light, we hope Government could impose pragmatic plans and rules for the public to follow.
6. In formulating emission targets of various widespread air pollutants, we urge Government to conduct comprehensive research and studies to make sure the new AQOs could meet the community's needs and are beneficial to our future generations.