

LegCo Panel on Planning, Lands and Works

Policy Initiatives of the Environment, Transport and Works Bureau

Introduction

This note elaborates on the new initiative in the 2006-07 Policy Agenda relevant to the works portfolio of the Environment, Transport and Works Bureau (ETWB) as well as progress of on-going initiatives in the 2005-06 Policy Agenda.

2006-07 Policy Agenda – New Initiative

Environmentally Responsible Development

Initiate a study on the general strategy for replacement of aged electrical and mechanical services assets on government premises to meet modern day requirements, including the wider use of environment friendly installations.

A descriptive account of the initiative

2. Many government premises were built in the last two decades, and thousands of electrical and mechanical (E&M) equipment, such as air-conditioning systems and electrical switchboards, have been installed in these buildings. A substantial proportion of these E&M assets are becoming aged and thus causing maintenance difficulty. The Electrical and Mechanical Services Trading Fund (EMSTF) will conduct a study on the general strategy for the replacement of these aged installations so that

a systematic approach may be worked out for replacing them with those that can meet modern day requirements in terms of efficiency, cost effectiveness and environment friendliness.

2006-07 Policy Agenda – On-going Initiatives

Effective Governance

Developing a Works Project Information Standard to facilitate the electronic exchange of public works project data and the reliability of electronic communications among stakeholders. We are refining the proposal in the light of advice from stakeholders.

Progress Made/Present Position

3. The contract for developing the Works Project Information Standard (WPIS) was awarded on 15 August 2005. Since the commencement of the development work, we have been maintaining close contact with the stakeholders via the WPIS Consulting Working Group to collect advice and feedback to ensure that the WPIS will be well received by the construction industry. The WPIS Consulting Working Group comprises government officials and representatives from the industry including trade associations, professional bodies, tertiary institutions and railway operators. The first phase of the development work is near completion, and we expect to complete the whole project by April 2008.

Preparing for a detailed consultancy study starting with the Business Case Study in regard to the adoption of Public-Private-Partnership

for the in-situ reprovisioning of the Sha Tin Water Treatment Works. We will suitably involve staff in the process.

Progress Made/Present Position

4. Water Services Department (WSD) is finalising the draft documents for engaging consultants for carrying out a detailed Public-Private-Partnership (PPP) Consultancy which will comprise four phases. In the first phase, the Business Case Study will be conducted.

5. An inter-departmental Steering Committee (SC) has been established to oversee the work relating to the proposed Sha Tin Water Treatment Works PPP project with three members nominated by WSD staff unions. We will continue to maintain a close dialogue with the WSD staff unions in addressing their concerns through the SC, the Special Consultative Committee and other established channels. We will consult this Panel again in due course before deciding on the way forward.

Continuing the effort to set up e-portals for the major clients of the Electrical and Mechanical Services Trading Fund (EMSTF) and making wider use of remote imaging and monitoring technology to further enhance the efficiency and service quality of EMSTF.

Progress Made/Present Position

6. Eleven e-Portals have already been established by 2005-06. Another new e-Portal for the Drainage Services Department was launched in August 2006. EMSTF plans to launch four more e-Portals for the Architectural Services Department, Correctional Services Department, Government Logistics Department and Highways

Department respectively in 2006-07.

7. To further enhance efficiency and service quality, EMSTF has started applying remote imaging and monitoring (RIM) technology on facility monitoring on some 30 sites as a pilot scheme. By transmission of images and data from the remote venues to the supporting maintenance depots, RIM enables real time alarm and image monitoring of the plant condition on remote sites. Wider use of this technology will be arranged where appropriate.

Continuing to improve the quality and efficiency of the EMSTF despite the fact that it has been selected as the Gold Award winner of the 2006 Hong Kong Management Association Quality Award.

Progress Made/Present Position

8. The EMSTF will continue to improve its quality and efficiency through a “Total Quality Management” (TQM) model by riding on and maintaining the momentum after the Award. A detailed action plan has been worked out and is being implemented. EMSTF has resolved to engage an independent third party for TQM assessment once every 3 years. The next assessment will be conducted in 2009.

Ensuring that the Architectural Services Department can achieve the target of outsourcing to 85% of the delivery of new projects in 2006-07 under its re-engineering programme.

Progress Made/Present Position

9. Outsourcing is an integral part of the re-engineering programme to re-align the Architectural Services Department for strategic roles as the corporate adviser of Government on public building development and maintenance matters and an advocate of high standards in construction, site management and safety. Outsourcing of new projects has increased from 35% in January 2002 to 83% by the end of 2005-06 and 85% by the end of 2006-07. The Department has been targeted to achieve the ultimate goal of 90% by the end of 2008-09. The level of outsourcing is progressing as planned and the progress is closely monitored and regularly reviewed. A review has been completed in June 2006 to evaluate the new mode of operation implemented so far and to consider the way forward to achieve the long term goal of 90% outsourcing. A dedicated checking unit for building projects has also been formed to ensure that the quality of outsourced works is not compromised.

Fine-tuning the Customer Care and Billing System for over 2.6 million customers of the Water Supplies Department in enhancing operational efficiency and customer service.

Progress Made/Present Position

10. The Customer Care and Billing System (CCBS) is designed to provide “one-stop shop” services and on-line customer services through the Internet on par with other public utilities. Being capable of interfacing with other existing systems, it offers valuable and timely information for service planning and management decision-making.

11. Phase I of the CCBS was completed in December 2003 to convert paper-based documentation into an electronic form, thus speeding up information transmission/sharing and reducing the use of storage space. Phase II rolled out in end-2004 to integrate customer services and billing has generated about six million water and sewage charge bills, whereas Phase III launched in February 2005 has improved data management and prioritised customer services delivery. The remaining features of the CCBS were completed in June 2006 to further enhance efficiency and customer services delivery.

12. Some teething problems emerged when the system was first put into place, causing deteriorated service performance in certain aspects. This is not uncommon for major IT projects and has been largely overcome through fine-tuning and staff training. The WSD is monitoring the performance of the system and the various customer services delivered. It will determine and implement improvement and enhancement measures for the CCBS as situations warrant. This process will continue so as to enhance the operational efficiency and customer service of the Department.

13. When the system becomes fully operational, we envisage that the CCBS will bring about an annual cost saving of over \$100 million after 2006-07.

Continuing to work in collaboration with the construction industry to monitor and control payment of workers' wages and reduce non-value added multi-layer subcontracting to raise industry standards.

New measures have already been implemented on all new public works contracts.

Progress Made/Present Position

14. In view of the increasing incidents on wage disputes in public works contracts and the concerns raised by the labour unions and the public on protection of workers' rights, the Government is committed to providing protective measures to workers engaged in public works contracts. Accordingly, the ETWB has identified a number of measures to be used in public works contracts with a view to tackling the problem of wage disputes and multi-layer subcontracting at source. The measures being implemented include the provision of a computerised smart card system, the use of written employment contracts, payment of wages via auto pay arrangements, the appointment of Labour Relation Officers, prohibition of subcontracting certain specified works and restriction on subcontracting layers on specified work elements and administrative sanctions on contractors with poor records in wage payment. These improvement measures are being implemented in all new public works contracts scheduled to tender from May 2006, and will be subject to refinement to suit practical needs.

Vibrant Economy

Continuing to assist the local construction industry in reaching out to new markets and exploring business prospects by leveraging on CEPA, as well as by strengthening the collaboration with the Mainland authorities.

Progress Made/Present Position

15. The ETWB has been working closely with the Ministry of Construction (MOC) on the development and implementation of the Mainland and Hong Kong Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement (CEPA). Since the first signing of CEPA in June 2003, we have held ten rounds of consultation meetings with MOC. Over the past four phases of CEPA consultation, we have secured various market liberalisation measures for Hong Kong's construction industry to facilitate our contractors and consultants to establish businesses in the Mainland. We will continue to liaise closely with MOC to follow up on the implementation of the CEPA commitments and to secure more market liberalisation measures for our construction industry.

16. We have also been maintaining close contacts with the local construction industry on CEPA implementation. Series of consultation meetings with the stakeholders have been held since July 2003 to collect their views for CEPA consultation. Furthermore, to enhance the stakeholders' understanding about the CEPA policy and implementation, we jointly organised with MOC and the Ministry of Commerce a "CEPA Forum for the Construction Sector" in Hong Kong in June 2006. We will continue to assist the industry stakeholders in making the best use of the CEPA concessions to explore the Mainland market.

17. Over the years, we have been making strenuous efforts to promote Hong Kong's construction and related professional services through organising conferences and visits in various places in the Mainland. In September 2006, we jointly organised a large-scale conference with MOC in Urumqi, the capital city of the Xinjiang Uygur

Autonomous Region, to promote exchange between the construction industries in the Mainland and Hong Kong as well as to explore business opportunities. We will continue to organise such promotional activities.

18. Apart from the Mainland market, we also promote the co-operation between the construction industries of Hong Kong and the Mainland in exploring overseas markets together. In April 2006, we assisted the construction industries of the two places in organising the “Seminar on the Co-operation between Contractors of the Mainland and Hong Kong” to establish business networks and communication channels for future co-operation. We subsequently organised a study mission to the Philippines and Cambodia for the construction industry in June 2006 to explore business opportunities in the Southeast Asian markets. We will continue to assist the local construction industry in reaching out to new markets and explore business prospects.

Continuing to promote mutual recognition of professional qualifications under CEPA for construction-related personnel and pursue with Mainland cities the secondment of graduate trainees to encourage exchange of talents and enhance co-operation.

Progress Made/Present Position

19. So far, six professions have reached mutual recognition agreements including estate surveyors, architects, structural engineers, planners, quantity surveyors and building surveyors. We will continue our discussion among the MOC, the State Bureau of Surveying and Mapping, related Mainland professional bodies and local professional

institutes with a view to facilitating the professions in reaching more mutual recognition agreements.

20. Two batches of Hong Kong architectural graduates and civil engineering graduates were seconded to the Shenzhen Construction Bureau and the Shenzhen Public Works Bureau respectively, and completed their 3 months' training in July 2005 and August 2006. Based on the results and experience gained in the Shenzhen secondment training programme, the ETWB is extending the programme to other Mainland cities such as Chongqing and Guangzhou. We will liaise closely with the Chongqing Construction Commission and the Guangzhou Construction Commission with a view to launching the programme in these two cities in due course.

Setting-up a Construction Industry Council as an umbrella organisation with self-regulatory powers to pursue continuous quality improvements in the industry upon the enactment of the Construction Industry Council Ordinance in May 2006.

Progress Made/Present Position

21. The preparatory work for setting up the Construction Industry Council (CIC) has been progressing on track. We are taking parallel actions to map out the detailed plans and related implementation arrangements on various fronts, including the staffing structure and recruitment of an executive director, provision of office accommodation and support services, transitional measures for the amalgamation of CIC and the Construction Industry Training Authority (CITA), as well as the future mechanism for liaison with government departments. In order to

achieve our objective of having the CIC up and running in early 2007, a commencement notice of relevant provisions under the CIC Ordinance will be gazetted for negative vetting by the Legislative Council in the near future.

Progressing with registration of existing construction workers, and subsequently, prohibiting unregistered construction workers from carrying out construction work on construction sites as well as employment of unregistered construction workers for such purpose.

Progress Made/Present Position

22. The Construction Workers Registration Authority (CWRA) commenced the registration of construction workers on 29 December 2005. Up to 17 September 2006, about 117 000 applications were received and over 108 000 registration cards were issued by the CWRA. Owing to difficulties encountered in the implementation, the registration of existing construction workers (estimated total of 160 000) could not be completed by end August 2006 as planned originally. To allow time for the remaining unregistered construction workers to complete the registration, CWRA has announced earlier the extension of registration period to the first quarter of 2007.

23. CWRA has preliminarily decided to adopt 31 March 2007 as the closing date in accepting applications for provisional registration. Depending on the actual registration progress and the outcome of consultation with stakeholders of the industry, CWRA would determine the timing to commence the prohibition provisions in the Construction Workers Registration Ordinance in due course.

Environmentally Responsible Development

Implementing a comprehensive greening strategy to improve the living environment of Hong Kong as well as make it a green model for Asia. Apart from continuous efforts to meet annual planting targets and review current government procedures and guidelines, we are actively pursuing the development and implementation of Greening Master Plans (GMPs). Our intention is to develop GMPs for the vast majority of urban areas in around four years. In developing the GMPs, we will adopt an Enhanced Partnering Approach which involves consultation with District Councils and the local community at the early stage. *[Note: This is followed by HAB's initiative – In 2006-07, we will organise 40 garden courses for the Community Garden Programme in 18 districts and will continue to organise various greening and horticultural activities to promote greater public awareness and support for a green environment.]*

Progress Made/Present Position

24. We will continue to pursue a comprehensive greening strategy.

Greening Master Plan

25. Greening Master Plans (GMPs) for Central and Tsim Sha Tsui have been completed. Works commenced in May 2006 for completion in early 2007. Similar works for other selected areas on Hong Kong Island and Kowloon will be implemented in phases.

26. Subject to funding approval by PWSC/FC in late 2006, we aim to commence the development of GMPs for Sheung Wan/Wan Chai/Causeway Bay and Mong Kok/Yau Ma Tei in early 2007 for completion in early 2008.

27. We shall adopt an enhanced partnering approach which involves consultation with District Councils and local stakeholders at the early stage for developing GMPs. We aim to complete in phases the development of GMPs for the vast majority of urban areas in around four years.

28. Prior to the development of GMPs for New Territories (NT) districts, we plan to implement greening enhancement proposals at focal points/locations as interim measures.

29. In developing GMPs, we will give due regard to local characteristics.

Greening programme

30. Satisfactory progress has been made in implementing the greening programme for 2006-07. Up to the end of August 2006, about 4.2 million plants were provided with the following breakdown –

Trees	Shrubs	Annuals	Total
1.51 million	2.25 million	0.45 million	4.21 million

We intend to provide about 9 million plants (including trees, shrubs and annuals) in 2006-07.

Tree Preservation

31. We have established a register of old and valuable trees on government land which are at least 100 years old or which have a trunk diameter over one metre and posted it onto the Internet for public access. Additional trees, including wall trees, will be progressively incorporated into this register. Felling of the over 500 registered trees is strictly prohibited without prior agreement by the ETWB and the Lands Department.

32. We promulgated a technical circular in May 2006 regarding an enhanced tree preservation strategy setting out the control framework for tree preservation and strengthening tree felling procedures.

33. In order to enhance the quality of our work force, we are making arrangement with CITA to provide training courses on horticultural work for landscape workers and supervisors starting from November 2006.

Continuing to achieve the objective of decking 16 sections of nullahs by 2014 to improve the living environment. We have completed three sections and expect to complete another five by end 2007 and the remaining in phases. The land obtained from decking of the nullahs will be used for public purposes such as greening, amenity and road widening.

Progress Made/Present Position

34. Decking of three nullahs at Fung Fai Terrace, Mongkok Road and San Kwai Street have been completed. Another five projects are under construction for completion by end 2007. Decking of the remaining eight nullahs will be implemented under four items in the public works programme, all of which are now in Category B. Preliminary designs for these nullahs have commenced.

Actively proceeding with the Total Water Management programme. Water conservation and water resource protection are promoted through various educational and publicity means. Further to the completion of the one-year pilot study on desalination in Tuen Mun, we are now conducting another study in Ap Lei Chau. On the side of exploring uses of reclaimed water, we have commissioned the pilot scheme at Ngong Ping in March 2006 and are currently proceeding with the second one in Shek Wu Hui.

Progress Made/Present Position

35. Water resource is important for the sustainable development in Hong Kong. We are actively proceeding with the Total Water Management (TWM) programme. We have been promoting water conservation and water resource protection through a series of educational and publicity programmes, including radio and television promotions, roving exhibitions, visits and open days of treatment works.

36. We have completed the first year of trial of the pilot desalination plant at Tuen Mun using reverse osmosis technology. The pilot plant was relocated to Ap Lei Chau in February 2006 for another

year of trial to obtain operational data under different sea water conditions.

37. The pilot scheme on use of reclaimed water at Ngong Ping has been commissioned in March 2006. The second one in Shek Wu Hui will start operation in late 2006. The two pilot schemes will provide useful information for the consideration of wider application of reclaimed water in the territory.

38. We have commissioned a consultancy study to map out the long-term strategies and to formulate implementation plans for the TWM programme in Hong Kong. The study will make reference to the outcome of the various pilot schemes and is scheduled for completion in end 2007.

Promoting the wider use of energy efficient devices and adoption of renewable energy systems in public works projects.

Progress Made/Present Position

39. In November 2005, the ETWB introduced a works policy, requiring designers of new public works projects to consider the adoption of renewable energy technologies and energy efficient devices including water-cooled air conditioning systems at the planning and early design stage of the projects, wherever practicable. Using water-cooled system instead of conventional air-cooled system can save up to some 20% of electricity.

Implementing the flood prevention programme to enhance the

protection level in flood prone areas. We have completed 36 major flood prevention projects since 1997 and effectively minimised the risk of regional flooding. At present there are 17 projects under construction. The Drainage Rehabilitation Works at Ping Yuen River were completed in early 2006. With this and the completion of the Regulation of Shenzhen River Stage III scheduled for end 2006, the risk of flooding in the northern New Territories will be greatly reduced. In addition, 14 projects are under planning including those six which aim to alleviate the flooding risk of urban areas at northern Hong Kong Island, East Kowloon and West Kowloon.

Progress Made/Present Position

40. Through the completion of a series of major flood prevention projects since 1997, the risk of extensive regional flooding in north-western and northern NT has largely been lowered.

41. In the north-western NT, flooding near Shan Pui River and the upstream areas in Yuen Long and Kam Tin has been alleviated by the completion of 21 major projects since 1997 including the recently completed San Tin Eastern Channel and Yuen Long Bypass Floodway in 2006. This is complemented by flood pumping schemes in Tin Shui Wai, Yuen Long, Kam Tin and San Tin, bringing relief to low-lying villages. Another four flood prevention projects, including Drainage Rehabilitation Works at Sha Po Tsuen Stream and Village Flood Protection for Tai Kui and Shui Pin Tsuen, Yuen Long, are still in progress.

42. In the northern NT, 11 major flood prevention projects have been completed since 1997. Stage III of the Shenzhen River Regulation

Project is due for completion in late 2006 and Drainage Improvement for Ma Wat River at Kau Lung Hang is under construction.

43. In urban areas, the completion of Stages I and II of the West Kowloon Drainage Improvement Scheme, the Tai Hang Tung Storage Scheme and the Kai Tak Transfer Scheme have obviated flooding problems in Mong Kok.

44. In addition, there are 14 projects currently in the design stage which include one project in the northwest NT, three in the northern NT, one in West Kowloon and nine in other areas. Of these 14 projects, six are aimed at alleviating flooding risk of urban area, including the 3 drainage tunnel projects namely the Lai Chi Kok Transfer Tunnel, Tsuen Wan Drainage Tunnel and Hong Kong West Drainage Tunnel.

Continuing with the Landslip Preventive Measures Programme which has greatly improved slope safety and visual impact of the built environment. We will upgrade another selected batch of 250 substandard government slopes as well as conduct safety-screening for another 300 private slopes in the coming year.

Progress Made/Present Position

45. In the first eight months of 2006, we upgraded and landscaped 162 substandard government man-made slopes based on a risk-based priority system and conducted safety-screening studies for 172 private man-made slopes. As a result of the safety-screening studies, the Buildings Department has issued Dangerous Hillside Orders to the

owners of 71 slopes during that period. The remaining work is scheduled for completion by the end of 2006.

Reviewing the Landslip Preventive Measures Programme to identify possible scope for improving the cost-effectiveness of slope upgrading works, as well as developing a risk-based priority ranking system for dealing with natural terrain susceptible to potential landslips, and formulating a strategy to deal with slopes formed with old technologies.

Progress Made/Present Position

46. Under the Landslip Preventive Measures (LPM) Programme, slopes are commonly upgraded using soil nails. We are undertaking a comprehensive review of the design and construction of soil nails. Technical guidance notes on enhanced practice and cost effectiveness are issued from time to time.

47. The Government has identified more than 1500 catchments with known historical natural terrain landslides that occurred close to existing developments. A risk-based priority ranking system is being developed for systematically ranking the catchments for implementing the necessary risk mitigation actions.

48. Selected slopes formed with old technologies (e.g. slopes formed in the late 1970's and 1980's without the use of robust stabilisation measures) showing signs of deterioration/instability and posing a risk to the community are included in the LPM Programme for investigation and necessary improvement works. We are assessing the risk level of these slopes with a view to formulating a suitable strategy for

landslide risk management.

2005-06 Policy Agenda – New Initiatives

Effective Governance

Work in collaboration with the construction industry to monitor and control payment of workers' wages and reduce non-value added multi-layer subcontracting to raise industry standards.

Progress Made/Present Position

49. This is an on-going initiative in the 2006-07 Policy Agenda. Please refer to paragraph 14 above.

Further improve the quality and efficiency of the Electrical and Mechanical Services Trading Fund by adopting a “Total Quality Management” approach and participating in a quality award programme in 2006 to benchmark itself with other well-managed organisations.

Progress Made/Present Position

50. This is an on-going initiative in the 2006-07 Policy Agenda. Please refer to paragraph 8 above.

2005-06 Policy Agenda – On-going Initiatives

Effective Governance

Developing a Works Project Information Standard to facilitate the electronic exchange of public works project data and the reliability of electronic communications among stakeholders.

Progress Made/Present Position

51. This is an on-going initiative in the 2006-07 Policy Agenda. Please refer to paragraph 3 above.

Continuing to examine the feasibility of adopting Public-Private-Partnership for the in-situ reprovisioning of the Sha Tin Water Treatment Works and related issues.

Progress Made/Present Position

52. This is an on-going initiative in the 2006-07 Policy Agenda. Please refer to paragraphs 4 – 5 above.

Carrying out testing, tuning and software customisation of the Enterprise Resource Planning corporate computer system, which helps enhance the efficiency and service quality of the Electrical and Mechanical Services Trading Fund (EMSTF); and continuing the effort to set up e-portals for EMSTF major clients.

Progress Made/Present Position

53. This is an on-going initiative in the 2006-07 Policy Agenda. Please refer to paragraphs 6 – 7 above.

Targetting the Architectural Services Department to achieve the

overall outsourcing to 68% in 2005-06 and 70% in 2006-07 for the delivery of new projects under its re-engineering programme.

Progress Made/Present Position

54. This is an on-going initiative in the 2006-07 Policy Agenda. Please refer to paragraph 9 above.

Continuing to monitor the performance of the new Customer Care and Billing System for over 2.6 million customers of the Water Supplies Department in improving operational efficiency and customer service.

Progress Made/Present Position

55. This is an on-going initiative in the 2006-07 Policy Agenda. Please refer to paragraphs 10 – 13 above.

Achieving effective communication with the general public and the media by publicising on the web-site of the Water Supplies Department updated information on the Water Mains Replacement and Rehabilitation projects.

Progress Made/Present Position

56. Action has been taken and completed. Information and related drawings on Stage 1 and Stage 2 of the replacement and rehabilitation works have been uploaded on the web-site of WSD.

Vibrant Economy

Establishing a Construction Industry Council as an umbrella organisation with self-regulatory powers to pursue continuous quality improvements and to take ownership of a reform programme mapped out by the Construction Industry Review Committee.

Progress Made/Present Position

57. This is an on-going initiative in the 2006-07 Policy Agenda. Please refer to paragraph 21 above.

Carrying out registration of existing construction workers, and subsequently, prohibiting unregistered construction workers from carrying out construction work on construction sites as well as employment of unregistered construction workers for such purpose.

Progress Made/Present Position

58. This is an on-going initiative in the 2006-07 Policy Agenda. Please refer to paragraphs 22 – 23 above.

Monitoring and reviewing the re-engineered methodology for planning and implementing infrastructural projects with a view to deriving better efficiency and cost-effectiveness by various means, including the wider adoption of a partnering approach, alternative dispute resolution mechanisms, alternative designs and procurement methods, as well as systematic risk management techniques.

Progress Made/Present Position

59. Actions have already been taken, including the consideration of using contractual partnering based on the New Engineering Contract,

reviewing the effectiveness of the wider adoption of the Voluntary Adjudication and Dispute Resolution Advisor System and issuing a Technical Circular requiring Works Departments to implement Systematic Risk Management on all public works projects exceeding \$200 million throughout their project cycle.

Environmentally Responsible Development

Implementing a comprehensive greening policy for Hong Kong through the collaboration of different departments and with the input of experts and specialists in the field, and aiming to develop a sustainable greening programme for the urban areas. We have set up a high level Steering Committee on Greening, completed the planting of 14 million trees, shrubs and annuals in 2004-05, and will complete the planting of another 10 million in 2005-06. We have completed the greening master plans for Tsim Sha Tsui and Central in mid 2005 and will continue to produce greening master plans for Sheung Wan/Wan Chan/Causeway Bay and Mong Kok/Yau Ma Tei by end 2006. For implementation of greening enhancement measures, six pilot schemes in Tsim Sha Tsui commenced in July for completion by end 2005. We will continue to implement greening works in Tsim Sha Tsui and Central for completion by end 2006. [Note: This is followed by HAB's initiative – The Community Garden Programme has been extended to cover 18 districts in 2005-06. We will continue to organise various greening and horticultural activities to promote greater public awareness and support for a green environment.]

Progress Made/Present Position

60. This is an on-going initiative in the 2006-07 Policy Agenda. Please refer to paragraphs 24 – 33 above.

Decking over 16 sections of nullahs in the next ten years to improve the living environment. The land obtained from decking of the nullahs will be used for public purposes such as greening, amenity and road widening.

Progress Made/Present Position

61. This is an on-going initiative in the 2006-07 Policy Agenda. Please refer to paragraph 34 above.

Continuing the implementation of the Total Water Management programme to promote water conservation and water resource protection through education and publicity; to collect test data and canvass public acceptance on desalination by commissioning a pilot plant; and to explore uses of reclaimed water through two pilot schemes at the Ngong Ping Sewage Treatment Plant and the Shek Wu Hui Sewage Treatment Plant.

Progress Made/Present Position

62. This is an on-going initiative in the 2006-07 Policy Agenda. Please refer to paragraphs 35 – 38 above.

Enhancing the use of energy efficient devices and promoting wider adoption of renewable energy in public works projects.

Progress Made/Present Position

63. This is an on-going initiative in the 2006-07 Policy Agenda. Please refer to paragraph 39 above.

Implementing the flood prevention programme by completing 31 major flood prevention projects since 1997, carrying out 16 and putting 16 under planning and design. We will have substantially minimised the risk of regional flooding in the northern New Territories by 2006 upon the completion of Regulation of Shenzhen River Stage III and Drainage Rehabilitation Works at Ping Yuen River.

Progress Made/Present Position

64. This is an on-going initiative in the 2006-07 Policy Agenda. Please refer to paragraphs 40 – 44 above.

Continuing with the Landslip Preventive Measures Programme which has greatly improved slope safety and visual impact of the built environment. We will upgrade and landscape 250 substandard government slopes as well as conduct safety-screening for 300 private slopes in the coming year.

Progress Made/Present Position

65. This is an on-going initiative in the 2006-07 Policy Agenda. Please refer to paragraph 45 above.

Reviewing the Landslip Preventive Measures Programme to identify possible scope for improved cost-effectiveness of the slope upgrading works, managing the risk posed by natural terrain landslides on the

dense population in Hong Kong, and according priority to dealing with natural slopes which are susceptible to potential landslip.

Progress Made/Present Position

66. This is an on-going initiative in the 2006-07 Policy Agenda. Please refer to paragraphs 46 – 48 above.

Environment, Transport and Works Bureau

October 2006