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[LegCo's Panel meeting on Environmental Affairs 28.1.08]

The views of the Association of Engineering Professionals in Society (AES) on the "Proposed Mandatory Implementation of Building Energy Codes"

AES consider protecting and improving our living environment should be the goal of every human being. Implementation of the Building Energy Codes (BECs) will fulfill our responsibility in reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

The voluntary Hong Kong Energy Efficiency Registration Scheme for Buildings (HKEERSB) is said to be ineffective. It is proposed to introduce mandatory BECs scheme.

Before the implementation of BECs, we should look into and study why and how the HKEERSB failed to achieve its aims. Valuable lessons and information could be learned to make effective implementation for the next step that is the mandatory BECs scheme.

Practicality should be considered for the introduction. Always start with the minimum interruption and disruption to normal life. The scheme can be used in commercial buildings. New buildings provide an easy and convenient way to commence. It is not advisable to include residential buildings at the start. This could be considered in the future. Special functional building required separate consideration but not excluded. Every one of these specials required special individual study depending on its function and specialty.

Mandatory BECs scheme should apply to new commercial buildings and existing commercial should not be excluded, but in phase two, otherwise it is meaningless to apply the BECs scheme. The implementation of BECs to existing buildings requires special consideration. The interruption and disruption to normal life should be minimal.

Some form of incentives and encouragement should be considered in applying the BECs scheme to existing buildings to make it more effective.

Of course this should be introduced in a gradual manner with least inconvenience and minimal hardship.

Effective implementation of BECs requires the full co-operation and commitment of other government departments as well as the public.

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