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**Advisory Council on the Environment**  
**Views on the Genetically Modified Organisms (Control of Release) Bill**

The Advisory Council on the Environment (ACE) discussed the Administration's proposed legislation for the implementation of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety at its meeting on 16 February 2009. The proposed legislation for the implementation of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to the Convention of Biological Diversity in Hong Kong aims to protect the local biological diversity from possible adverse impacts arising from genetically modified organisms (GMOs). The Council's views on the proposed legislation are as follows –

- (a) the Council fully supported the proposed legislation with the objective of protecting local biological diversity from possible impacts arising from trans-boundary movement of GMOs. It was an obligation of Hong Kong, being a world city, to comply with the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety;
- (b) the Council considered that it was important to raise public awareness and enhance education about the subject in view of its technical nature and implications of releasing GMOs into the environment; and
- (c) the Council considered that the authority should take adequate measures to monitor the situation closely after an approved GMO was released into the environment and take safety measures in case new information showed that the approved GMO might pose a risk to biological diversity that was not acceptable or manageable.