



4 March 2009

Mr. Yau Tang-wah, Edward, JP
Secretary for the Environment
46/F, Revenue Tower, 5 Gloucester Road,
Wanchai, Hong Kong

Dear Mr. Yau,

Thank you for meeting with us on 18 February 2009 and your supportive comments to the media earlier in the day welcoming the "Every Day No Plastic Bag" initiative.

"Every Day No Plastic Bag" is a major commitment of the retail chains to promoting environmental awareness and reducing plastic bag use. The retail sector has always believed that effective reduction is best achieved by voluntary actions and education as recommended by EPD's own consultant, GHK in May 2007. Indeed, since the announcement of "Every Day No Plastic Bag", we are pleased to let you know that 11 more retailers have agreed to join our initiative. While a Legislative Council Subcommittee is scrutinising the Product Eco-responsibility (Plastic Shopping Bags) Regulation, we strongly urge the Government to come up with a comprehensive roadmap for extending the levy to all retail outlets in order to achieve an overall goal of total plastic shopping bag reduction in Hong Kong.

We are pleased to learn that a taskforce will be set up in July to start looking into the review mechanism of the scheme and we are also glad that HKRMA will be part of the taskforce. There is, however, no good reason why work on review mechanism should not start now. As mentioned in our meeting, we believe that the existing working group for the implementation details of the levy scheme is well placed to discuss the review mechanism, as part of its ongoing work. To initiate the process, the HKRMA has now submitted its views on the review's scope and the necessary criteria for measuring the effectiveness of the levy.

We have received positive responses from Legislative Council Members regarding the necessity of a roadmap but regret that your response has been lukewarm at best.



HONG KONG
RETAIL MANAGEMENT
ASSOCIATION

香港零售管理協會

The retail sector has been striving to help achieve reduction of plastic bags through different means. We are also working on our suggestions for the review mechanism of the levy scheme to facilitate our discussion with EPD. We earnestly hope to see a clear and strong commitment of the Government to the goal of achieving genuine waste reduction, by working with us and other stakeholders to put together a coherent policy and a comprehensive roadmap to achieve the objective set out in the policy.

I look forward to continuing our discussion.

Yours sincerely,

Caroline Mak

Chairman

Hong Kong Retail Management Association

Cc: LegCo Subcommittee on Product Eco-responsibility (Plastic Shopping Bags) Regulation
LegCo Panel on Environmental Affairs
Retail Task Force under Business Facilitation Advisory Committee