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Submission on Motor Vehicle Idling (Fixed Penalty) Bill from the Hong Kong Paediatric Society

- (1) The Hong Kong Paediatric Society (we) appreciates the effort of the government to improve the air quality of Hong Kong with the introduction of the Bill to reduce emission from idling motor vehicles.
- (2) Emission from idling motor vehicles including carbon dioxides, particulate matters and other green house gases (ozone) are directly linked to respiratory dysfunction in children, predisposition to asthmatic attacks, lower the body's immune function to fight against bacterial infection and may cause permanent lung damage. In addition, many meta-analyses and epidemiological studies have documented consistent associations between premature mortality and ozone exposures.
- (3) Though it may be difficult to predict the extent of benefit from enforcement of the Bill and change of driving habit, we believe that such practice would significantly reduce the emission of toxic gases especially in commercial districts in Hong Kong.
- (4) We urge the government to carry out more local association and epidemiological studies to examine the negative effects of poor air quality on children's health. These important studies would provide supporting scientific evidence for further actions in tackling our worsening air quality.
- (5) We understand that the Bill may cause inconvenience to some drivers and their passengers especially during extremely hot or rainy days and we urge the government to educate the public how not to contravene the Bill during those situations.

Prepared by the Hong Kong Paediatric Society

Date: 26 May 2010