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Advisory Council on the Environment

Views on the “Framework Agreement on Hong Kong/Guangdong Co-operation – Environmental protection and ecology conservation”

On 14 June 2010, the Advisory Council on the Environment (the Council) discussed the “Framework Agreement on Hong Kong/Guangdong Co-operation – Environmental protection and ecology conservation” (Framework Agreement) at its meeting. The Council’s views on the Framework Agreement are as follows -

- (a) the Council welcomed and fully supported the Framework Agreement which defined clearly the development positioning of Hong Kong/Guangdong co-operation and aimed at improving the regional environmental quality and transforming the Pearl River Delta (PRD) region into a Green Quality Living Area;
- (b) the Council considered that a review mechanism should be set up to evaluate the effectiveness of co-operation initiatives on environmental protection and ecology conservation under the Framework Agreement through a set of targets or benchmarks with work plans and time lines;
- (c) the Council considered that the scope of the Framework Agreement should also include low carbon economy, energy plan and supply of clean drinking water and food. The scope of green transport should not only cover the wider use of electric vehicles but also mass transportation system and other environment-friendly modes of transportation such as cycling;
- (d) the Council considered that more concerted efforts should be made to achieve better results in terms of circular economy through closer co-operation in cross-border recycling of reusable materials;

- (e) the Council considered it important to consider the cumulative environmental impacts of cross-boundary infrastructure projects in a holistic manner through better exchange of information in the context of the Framework Agreement, such as assessment of environmental impacts of cross-boundary projects, ecological enhancement projects, opening up of the Frontier Closed Areas and related development;
- (f) the Council suggested closer co-operation with non-government sectors, such as research institutes, environmental industries and non-government organizations, and make better use of existing resources and platforms to encourage their involvement in delivering the Framework Agreement and tap inputs and innovative ideas for taking forward the initiatives; and
- (g) the Council hoped that public education and promotion of green living style could be further strengthened in the PRD area in view of the increasing affluence in the region.