

Josie Close
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Subject :Questions to Legco on the
government's Climate-change
Strategies and Action Plan

M. Poon,

please note the following:

The consultation document asks whether the community supports co-operation with the PRD.

Co-operation is essential in the long-term planning of infrastructure and especially energy.

In this regard, it is suggested that HK needs a single energy authority to oversee all gas, electricity, RE (large and small-scale), nuclear generation and distribution to better co-ordinate all parties' interests with the PRC/PRD.

Further, it is suggested that

- a) the HK Govt modifies the present SoC to better suit the PRC's liberalised electricity market structure, with single independent regulator, open access grid and requirement to accept all RE generated electricity.
- b) the HK Govt requires the electric utilities to advance more rapidly a 'smart grid' pilot also co-operating with PRD on a cross-border project (including the EV charging network)
- c) since smart grid will facilitate the 2-way flow of energy and information, it is a means to promote demand-side management which the government should rigorously support to save energy and reduce CO2 emissions - this will also link to smart buildings, smart meters, smart appliances and EVs.
- d) the HK Govt prompts the setting-up of joint working groups to establish the harmonisation of regulations & requirements for the smart grid to meet international standards - perhaps in an ASEAN context to take advantage of the progress of Korea, Japan and Singapore

On the matter of energy savings, it is suggested the HK govt urgently activates an ambitious retrofit building programme to realise the extremely high savings achievable from improved building energy performance, and requires the electric utilities to co-operate on sophisticated demand-side management techniques to support SAR-wide energy-savings. All means of demand-side and supply-side energy management need to be fully exploited.

Nuclear energy requires considerable cost and oversight to ensure safe generation and waste storage. The planned ambitious expansion of the PRC's nuclear generation programme, as reported by the World Nuclear Association, highlights concern that the essential oversight may be overlooked in the rush. The PRC assists with project funding and liability insurance thus removing the market's influence on risk level. HK must do more to develop its expertise in low-energy performance buildings and industrial operations, working with the PRD to transfer that skill and reduce our total energy needs.

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