

(Translation)

Motion on
“Comprehensively improving the water quality of the Victoria Harbour”
moved by Dr Hon Priscilla LEUNG
at the Council meeting of 16 November 2011

Motion as amended by Dr Hon PAN Pey-chyou

That, following the efforts made in the harbour area treatment works in recent years, the ‘cross harbour swimming race’ was resumed on 16 October this year after a suspension of 33 years; however, the West Kowloon Cultural District project has entered Stage 3 of the consultation process and will soon be finalized and commenced; the first berth of Kai Tak Cruise Terminal will be commissioned in 2013; the Government is also developing continuous waterfront promenades along waterfront areas on both sides of the Victoria Harbour, and such works and projects are all closely related to the Victoria Harbour; and, as the water quality of the Victoria Harbour has all along been criticized by environmentalists, academics and the public, this Council urges the Government to formulate long-term proposals for improving the water quality of the Victoria Harbour, so as to truly realize the objective of ‘returning the harbour to the people’; the relevant improvement proposals should include the following measures:

- (a) to immediately investigate and stop the pollution sources of the Victoria Harbour;
- (b) to identify misconnection of sewers in the urban areas, and expeditiously replace aged sewers under the various sewerage rehabilitation and upgrading works programmes, so as to ensure that effluents will not enter the Victoria Harbour through other channels and cause pollution;
- (c) to expeditiously complete the upgrading works of sewage collection, treatment and disposal facilities on both sides of the Victoria Harbour and in the various districts of Hong Kong, so as to raise the effluent discharge capacity of existing sewers in Hong Kong;
- (d) to expeditiously finalize the timetable for implementing Harbour Area Treatment Scheme Stage 2B and strive for its commencement at the earliest possible time, so as to further improve the water quality of the Victoria Harbour;

- (e) to study introducing a more advanced and higher standard effluent treatment process for treating effluents from both sides of the Victoria Harbour, including allocating additional resources to study the development of reclaimed water, so as to achieve the objectives of sustainable development and recycling;
- (f) to increase the existing penalties to punish individuals or enterprises who pollute the harbour;
- (g) to rectify the current situation of fragmentation of responsibilities among government departments for managing the water quality of the Victoria Harbour, and to study establishing a higher-level department to co-ordinate and follow up the relevant matters;
- (h) to draw reference from international experience, so as to formulate water quality objectives specifically for the Victoria Harbour;
- (i) to report to the public on the water quality of the various parts of the Victoria Harbour at half-yearly intervals;
- (j) to study the feasibility of removing polluting facilities in the vicinity of the Victoria Harbour while having regard to people's livelihood needs; and
- (k) to make the 'cross harbour swimming race' an annual gala in Hong Kong and, on the premise of ensuring contestants' health and safety, organize it every year at different locations in the Victoria Harbour, so as to press the relevant departments to seriously improve the water quality of the Victoria Harbour.