

## **A Comparison of Standards for Raw Water in Overseas Countries**

The water purchase agreement between Hong Kong and Guangdong specifies that the raw water supplied to Hong Kong should meet at least Class II standard in the PRC National Environmental Quality Standard for Surface Water. Class II raw water quality is described as that equivalent to the standard suitable for use as drinking water after normal treatment.

The only other quality standards for surface water that we are aware of are Classes A1, A2 and A3 adopted by the European Commission. It is difficult to make direct comparison between the EC standards and PRC National standards. However, Class A2 in the EC standard is described as surface water requiring normal physical treatment, chemical treatment and disinfection for drinking purpose.

I would like to emphasize once again that the quality of the raw water for Dongjiang is fully within the capability of the treatment works in Hong Kong which have been designed to cope with such standard of raw water. Our treated water consistently complies with WHO Guideline values (1993) for drinking water, and is safe for consumption.