

CB(1) 2033/02-03(01)

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3/F, Citibank Tower
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Panel on Environmental Affairs
Meeting on 23 June 2003

Integrated Co-combustion Cement Production Facility

Thank you for sending us the submission from Greenpeace. As pointed out in Paper CB(1)2000/02-03(04), the project in question is carried out jointly by the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology and Green Island Cement. It is not a Government proposal.

As regards the Government's waste management strategy, please rest assured that our focus has often been waste prevention and recovery. We have put in place a whole range of programmes to promote waste prevention and recovery. The details of the programmes have been set out in our Paper "Measures to Promote the Prevention and Recovery of Municipal Solid Waste in Hong Kong" (Paper CB(1) 958/02-03(03)), which was discussed at the Panel on 24 February 2003.

We will continue to work closely with district councils, community bodies, green groups and schools in fostering community participation in waste prevention, separation and recovery. We believe our efforts in waste recovery will facilitate the development of the recycling industry, which in turn will create job opportunities.

However, even with the best effort in waste prevention and recovery, there are large volumes of waste that cannot be recycled. We need to develop large-scale waste management facilities. Such facilities would need to meet the highest international environmental standards and be cost-effective.

In February 2002, we informed the Panel that we would invite expressions of interest in providing appropriate technologies for large-scale waste management facilities in Hong Kong. Please refer to Paper CB(1)1122 01-02(05) for the details. We issued the invitation to the local and international waste management industry in April 2002. We received a total of 59 proposals. An advisory group, comprising mainly non-officials, has been set up to evaluate the proposals and make recommendations to the Government. We will certainly consult the Panel and the public before making a final decision on the waste treatment technologies that should be adopted in Hong Kong.

Should you have any queries, please let me know.

Yours sincerely,

(Ms Annie Choi)
for Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works