



City University
of Hong Kong

香港九龍德輔道
Tat Chee Avenue, K
Hong Kong

3 July 2004

Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works
Environment, Transport and Works Bureau
HKSAR
Government Secretariat
10/F, Citibank Tower
3 Garden Road
Hong Kong



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Attn: Mr. Raistine Lau

Dear Mr. Lau,

**Panel on Environment Affairs
Special Meeting on 7 July 2004**

Thank you for inviting me to attend the special panel meeting on 7 July 2004. Unfortunately, I will be conducting a training course for the United Nations in Japan during that time, and therefore would not be able to attend the special panel meeting.

The various options recommended by the IRP have been carefully evaluated and discussed in great detail at the HATS monitoring group meetings. As an ex-member of the IRP as well as the HATS Monitoring Group, I am very pleased to note that the government is now on the right track and taking appropriate actions to protect the marine environment of Hong Kong. Due to a number of uncertainties (e.g. projected population growth and sewage flow, limiting factor of algal blooms) at this moment, I consider it prudent for the government to take a stepwise approach in the implementation of Stage 2a and Stage 2b, so that the precise level of sewage treatment to be implemented in Stage 2b could be determined by the result of the on-going water quality monitoring program. Such an approach will neither over-protect the environment (which would unnecessarily waste public funds) or under-protect the environment (which would be detrimental to the environment). Since the water quality of Victoria Harbor should show a significant improvement after the implementation of Stage 2a, environmental risk incurred (if any) due to the delay of Stage 2b should be minimal and acceptable. However, I would like to caution that the environmental risk of using chlorine as the disinfectant MUST be carefully assessed and quantified beforehand.

I would be more than happy to answer any questions that the panel may have. Please call me at 2788 7401 after 12 July if you have any question.

Yours sincerely,

Prof. Rudolf Wu
Director
Centre for Coastal Pollution & Conservation
City University of Hong Kong
Ex-member of the IRP and HATS Monitoring Group

cc: Ms. Doris Cheung, Deputy Secretary (Environment), ETWB