

For information
on 18 November 2004

**Legislative Council
Panel on Environmental Affairs**

**Update on the Public Consultation for
Harbour Area Treatment Scheme Stage 2**

PURPOSE

On 21 June 2004, the Administration issued two papers, namely “Way Forward for the Harbour Area Treatment Scheme (HATS) Stage 2” (CB(1)2215/03-04(06)) and “Findings of Trials and Studies Relating to the HATS Stage 2” (CB(1)2215/03-04(07)) to Members and announced the commencement of the public consultation exercise for HATS Stage 2. At the meeting held on 28 June 2004, the Administration introduced the findings of the trials and studies for HATS and the recommendations for adopting Option A¹ as the preferred option and a phased approach for implementing HATS Stage 2, with chemical treatment plus disinfection for Stage 2A and biological treatment for Stage 2B. To raise general awareness of the environment and enhance public involvement and interest, we have also conducted a publicity and public education programme on HATS and extended the consultation period to 20 November 2004 in response to Members’ request. This paper provides an update on the consultation exercise and publicity programme undertaken for Members’ information.

PROGRESS OF THE PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON HATS STAGE 2

2. Since the announcement on the public consultation exercise, we have conducted a series of briefings to explain the background and rationale of the proposed way forward for HATS Stage 2, including -

- two in-depth technical briefings for the public, particularly the green groups, academics and professional bodies to explain the background and technical assessments of the four options as well as the studies conducted;
- briefings to all interested Members, Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of the District Councils (DCs);
- visits to the Stonecutters Island Sewage Treatment Works (SCISTW) for all interested DC Members;
- meetings with the concerned DCs;
- meetings of the Advisory Committee on Environment (ACE);
- briefings for the Aquaculture Subcommittee and Captured Fisheries Subcommittee of the Advisory Committee on Agriculture and Fisheries; and

¹ to construct deep tunnels for transferring sewage from the remaining parts of Hong Kong Island to the Stonecutters Island Sewage Treatment Works for centralized treatment

- a public hearing forum for members of the public to present their views and comments.

3. To arouse the public's interest in HATS, we have also arranged a series of publicity and public education programme together with the Environmental Campaign Committee. These activities include -

- a total of 9 road shows and exhibitions held at popular shopping centres with an attendance rate of about 38,000;
- specific briefings for 210 Environmental Protection Ambassadors Volunteers who have brought the clean harbour message to another 3,000 members of about 90 organizations through some 90 meetings / briefing sessions;
- circulation of exhibitions and roadshows materials on HATS for some 40 schools;
- broadcasting public announcements through television, radio, the Mass Transit Railway and Kowloon Canton Railway; and
- display of posters at various public areas and on public transport including buses, trams and the Mass Transit Railway.

4. Apart from the above activities, we also offered in-depth discussions with the key stakeholders including the green groups and professional bodies. We have also uploaded all the relevant reports and supplementary documents, including meeting notes of the HATS Monitoring Group on the clean harbour website. Lists of the functions held and information uploaded on the website are at Annexes A and B respectively.

Annex A &
Annex B

5. As at 1 November 2004, we have received some 50 submissions on the proposed way forward for HATS Stage 2. Around 60% of the submissions supported the implementation of HATS Stage 2 whilst 20% of the submissions expressed reservation on the project. The rest of the submissions did not reveal any clear inclination. On the funding arrangement, 30% of the submissions received contained specific comments on the Polluter-Pays Principle and all of them supported the adoption of the Principle for HATS.

6. The public consultation will last until 20 November 2004, after which we will prepare a report on the outcome of the exercise. Members are welcome to provide views on HATS Stage 2.

Environment, Transport and Works Bureau
November 2004

**Consultation Exercise
on Harbour Area Treatment Scheme (HATS) Stage 2**

Functions and Briefings Held or to be held (as at 1 Nov 2004)

Date	Event
21/6/2004	Announcement of Public Consultation
28/6/2004	The Legislative Council EA Panel meeting
7/7/2004	Special EA Panel meeting
12/7/2004	Advisory Council on the Environment (ACE) meeting
13/7/2004	Sham Shui Po District Council (DC)
15/7/2004	DC Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen
15/7/2004	Environment & Health Subcommittee of Central and Western DC
17/7/2004	First in-depth technical briefing for green groups, academics and professional bodies
19/7/2004	Second in-depth technical briefing for green groups, academics and professional bodies
20/7/2004	Wanchai DC
21/7/2004	DC Members
21/7/2004	Kick-off Ceremony of Public Education and Roving Exhibitions
22/7/2004	Tsuen Wan Rural Area Committee
27/7/2004	Tsuen Wan DC
29/7/2004	Aquaculture Subcommittee of the Advisory Committee on Agriculture & Fisheries
24/8/2004	Captured Fisheries Subcommittee of the Advisory Committee on Agriculture & Fisheries
31/8/2004	Wong Tai Sin DC
6/9/2004	ACE Meeting – Public Forum on HATS Stage 2
16/9/2004	Environment & Hygiene Subcommittee of Eastern DC

<u>Date</u>	Event																														
17/9/2004	Central & Western DC																														
18/9/2004	Site visit to Stonecutters Island Sewage Treatment Works (SCISTW) by Eastern, Sham Shui Po, Islands and Tsuen Wan DC members																														
24/9/2004	HATS seminars for Environmental Protection Ambassador Scheme for Property Management																														
25/9/2004	Site visit to SCISTW by members of Wan Chai DC																														
27/9/2004	Environment & Hygiene Subcommittee of Southern DC																														
28/9/2004	British Chamber of Commerce																														
Jul - Oct	Public Education and Roving Exhibitions: <table><tr><th><u>Date</u></th><th><u>Location</u></th><th><u>Function</u></th></tr><tr><td>21-22/7</td><td>Ocean Terminal</td><td>Kick Off Ceremony and Exhibition</td></tr><tr><td>31/7 – 1/8</td><td>Olympian City II</td><td>Large Scale Road Show</td></tr><tr><td>11-13/8</td><td>Ferry Pier at Central</td><td>Exhibition</td></tr><tr><td>21-22/8</td><td>World Trade Centre</td><td>Exhibition</td></tr><tr><td>4-5/9</td><td>Marina Square</td><td>Exhibition</td></tr><tr><td>12/9</td><td>The Westwood</td><td>Road Show</td></tr><tr><td>26/9</td><td>Cityplaza</td><td>Road Show</td></tr><tr><td>29/9</td><td>Tsuen Wan Plaza</td><td>Road Show</td></tr><tr><td>12-19/10</td><td>Central Library</td><td>Exhibition</td></tr></table>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Function</u>	21-22/7	Ocean Terminal	Kick Off Ceremony and Exhibition	31/7 – 1/8	Olympian City II	Large Scale Road Show	11-13/8	Ferry Pier at Central	Exhibition	21-22/8	World Trade Centre	Exhibition	4-5/9	Marina Square	Exhibition	12/9	The Westwood	Road Show	26/9	Cityplaza	Road Show	29/9	Tsuen Wan Plaza	Road Show	12-19/10	Central Library	Exhibition
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9/10/2004	Open forum on HATS by the Hong Kong Institution of Engineers (HKIE) and the Chartered Institution of Water and Environmental Management, Hong Kong (CIWEM)																														
15/10/2004	Site visit to SCISTW by members of Southern DC																														
18 Oct 2004	The Canadian Chamber of Commerce																														
21.10.2004	The Conservancy Association																														
25.10.2004	The Federation of Hong Kong Industries																														
26.10.2004	The Society for Protection of the Harbour																														
26.10.2004	The Hong Kong Waste Management Association																														
27.10.2004	HATS seminars for Environmental Protection Ambassador Scheme for Property Management																														

<u>Date</u>	Event
28.10.2004	The Business Environment Council
28.10.2004	The Citizen Envisioning Harbour
29.10.2004	The World Wide Fund on HATS
29.10.2004	The Hong Kong Tunnelling Society
1.11.2004	The Hong Kong Institute of Architects
2.11.2004	Site visit to SCISTW by DC Chairmen and vice-chairmen
3.11.2004	The Hong Kong Institute of Environmental Impact Assessment
4.11.2004	The Harbour-front Enhancement Committee
6 Nov 2004	Public hearing
8 Nov 2004	ACE meeting
9 Nov 2004	Follow-up meeting of Open forum on HATS for HKIE & CIWEM held on 9 Oct 2004
13 Nov 2004	Site visit to SCISTW by C&W DC Members
18 Nov 2004	EA Panel Meeting
20 Nov 2004	End of Consultation Period

Information Uploaded to Clean Harbour Website
(www.cleanharbour.gov.hk)

General Information

- Consultation Document on Way Forward for Harbour Area Treatment Scheme (HATS) Stage 2
- Introduction of the HATS including background, development milestones, the way forward for the further stage, etc.
- Latest information on HATS and announcements of upcoming activities
- HATS related community outreach activities
- Minutes of the HATS Monitoring Group Meetings

Resource Centre

- Legislative Council papers
- Link to the 2000 Strategic Sewage Disposal Scheme (SSDS) Review website which contains SSDS related reports and publications.
- HATS related reports

❖ Proposed Water Quality Criteria	June 2002
❖ Report on Community Consultation for the Proposed Water Quality Criteria	October 2002
❖ Summary of Flow Capacity Reassessment Study for Stonecutters Island Sewage Treatment Works	January 2003
❖ Summary Report of Flows for Harbour Area Treatment Scheme Stage I	January 2003
❖ Briefing Document - Tools for Water Quality Modelling	April 2003
❖ Compact Sewage Treatment Technology Pilot Plant Trials - Independent Checker's Final Report	June 2003
❖ Compact Sewage Treatment Technology Pilot Plant Trials - Executive Summary of Final Report	July 2003
❖ Environmental and Engineering Feasibility Assessment Studies - Final Report	June 2004
❖ Study on Procurement Options - Final Interim Report	June 2004
❖ Assessment of Phased Implementation of HATS Stage 2	June 2004
❖ SSDS (HATS) Stage I Baseline monitoring and Performance Verification - Executive Summary of Final Report	August 2004