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Clerk to Panel on Environmental Affairs
Legislative Council Building
8 Jackson Road
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(Attention: Miss Becky YU)

30 November 2007

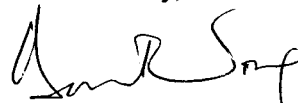
Dear Miss YU,

Progress Report on Control of Persistent Organic Pollutants
under the HKSAR Implementation Plan (HKSARIP) for the Stockholm Convention

The subject on "Control of Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) under the HKSAR Implementation Plan for the Stockholm Convention" was discussed at the LegCo Environmental Affairs Panel on 27 February 2006 (LC Paper No. CB(1) 1121/05-06 refers). The Administration was asked to provide a progress report on the action plan to control POPs.

2. Please be advised that following the panel meeting on 27 February 2006, we consulted the Advisory Council on the Environment (on 13 March 2006) on the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Implementation Plan (HKSARIP), which the Council in principle endorsed. The draft HKSARIP was subsequently submitted to the Central People's Government (CPG) in September 2006. The CPG submitted China's National Implementation Plan (including the HKSARIP) to the Conference of the Parties of the Stockholm Convention in April 2007. I now attach a progress report at **Annex** in respect of the progress made on the actions under the HKSARIP up to November 2007 for Members' information.

Yours truly,



(David T W Wong)

for Director of Environmental Protection

**Progress Report on Control of Persistent Organic Pollutants
under the HKSAR Implementation Plan for the Stockholm Convention**

Action Item	Progress Update
<p>Strengthening of the Institutional and Regulatory Systems</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● In Progress. The Hazardous Chemicals Control Bill, which aims to regulate non-pesticide hazardous chemicals, was introduced into the Legislative Council in May 2006. The Bill was passed by the Legislative Council and the Hazardous Chemicals Control Ordinance (19 of 2007) was gazetted in July 2007. ● The subsidiary legislation under the Ordinance was passed by the Legislative Council in November 2007. The Ordinance will commence operation in 2008.
<p>Validation and Refinement of the POPs Inventories & Capacity Building</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● In Progress. Data collection assignments have been initiated in phases since 2006 to generate additional local data for updating the source inventories on POPs. ● On the monitoring of environmental levels of POPs, the routine monitoring programmes for ambient air, local marine water, sediment and biota are being progressively expanded to cover POPs. Studies of POPs in local water birds and marine mammals (dolphins and porpoises) have also been initiated. ● POPs are now included in the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD)'s routine Food Surveillance Programme. FEHD also commissioned a population-based local food consumption survey in 2006 to characterize the food consumption patterns of local residents. The Water Supplies Department and Government Laboratory jointly conducted measurements of POPs in local drinking water in 2006 and 2007.

Action Item	Progress Update
<p>Measures to Reduce Emission of Unintentionally Produced POPs</p>	<p>In Progress. Measures being implemented under HKSAR Government's various environmental programmes include: –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A revised guideline issued in September 2006 to tighten the emission standard for new cremation facilities. Euro IV emission standards for newly registered vehicles have been implemented since October 2006. ● Progressive implementation of the territory-wide sewerage programme to further reduce emissions to the marine environment, including the Harbour Area Treatment Scheme and upgrading of sewage treatment facilities. ● Continued implementation of integrated waste management with priority on waste prevention and recycling. Best available techniques and best environmental practices will be adopted in the development of new waste treatment facilities.
<p>Public Awareness Campaign</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● In Progress. A POPs thematic website was launched in May 2006, together with production of POPs information pamphlet and poster for public education purpose. POPs information panels are now on display in EPD's Environmental Resources Centres.
<p>Regional Collaboration with the Mainland</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● In Progress. A regional workshop on POPs monitoring and risk assessment was conducted in November 2006. Over 130 participants, including government officials, academia and experts from the Mainland and Macao SAR, attended the workshop. ● Continuing efforts to promote regional collaboration on POPs monitoring and assessment are being pursued with priority on the PRD region.

**Environmental Protection Department
November 2007**