

**For discussion
on 21 October 2005**

LegCo Panel on Planning, Lands and Works

**Policy Initiatives of
Administration Wing, Chief Secretary for Administration's Office**

Introduction

The 2005-06 Policy Address and Policy Agenda set out new and on-going initiatives for the next two years. This note elaborates on the initiatives pertinent to the Administration Wing of the Chief Secretary for Administration's Office.

Policy Address

The Tamar Development Project

2. The Chief Executive announced in the Policy Address that the Administration will consult the Legislative Council (LegCo) later on the re-launch of the Tamar development project. The Administration considers it timely to implement the project as its financial position has improved. Both the Government Headquarters and the LegCo have been experiencing acute office space shortfall. The buildings now housing the Government Secretariat and bureau offices are too old for cost-effective upgrading to meet modern office requirements, and the maintenance costs are also on the rise. LegCo faces similar difficulties. Development of the new Government Headquarters and LegCo buildings at Tamar will provide a long-term solution to these issues.

3. Early implementation of the project will bring about helpful employment opportunities for the construction industry, which is facing an unemployment rate above 12%. The project would create 2,700 jobs throughout the development period.

4. Since the new LegCo building would be a core component of the project, the Administration will consult Members through the LegCo Commission in the first instance. The Administration proposes to consult the Panel again when it can have the necessary details of the project arrangements pursuant to a proposed prequalification exercise.

Policy Agenda

Environmentally Responsible Development

Enhancing the public engagement process for the Sustainable Development Strategy for Hong Kong, with the aim of encouraging greater public awareness of and participation in this process.

5. This is an on-going initiative of the Administration Wing. In the past year, the Sustainable Development Unit provided administrative support to the Council for Sustainable Development (SD) in its implementation of the first stage of the engagement process for a SD Strategy for Hong Kong. The Council completed a report in early 2005 on the engagement process covering three Pilot Areas: Solid Waste Management, Renewable Energy and Urban Living Space. The report was issued together with the Administration's First SD Strategy for Hong Kong in May 2005. The Council has begun preparatory work on the second stage of the engagement process, following a stakeholder forum in July 2005 to discuss potential Priority Areas for the SD Strategy.

Caring and Just Society

Examining the findings of studies on specific topics of Population Policy, with a view to consulting the public and publishing a review report in 2005-06

6. The Central Policy Unit has commissioned a series of population related studies on the policies and practices of selected countries in attracting talented individuals, addressing retirement, promoting parenthood, and tackling the eligibility and portability of public benefits. In parallel, the Administration is reviewing progress in implementing the policy recommendations made in the Report of the Task Force on Population Policy in 2003. Upon completion of these studies and the review, the Task Force on Population Policy will publish a report for public consultation in 2006, taking into account the changes in our demographic structure and the policies needed to respond to these changes.

Administration Wing
Chief Secretary for Administration's Office

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