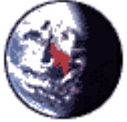


CB(1)1459/06-07(04)



"Prof. Leonard Cheng"

2007/04/25 PM 03:09

To yhcheung@legco.gov.hk

cc

Subject Re: Invitation for submission - Subcommittee on Sewage Services (Sewage Charge) (Amendment) Regulation 2007, Sewage Services (Trade Effluent Surcharge) (Amendment) Regulation 2007 and Technical Memorandum (fwd)

Dear Miss Cheung,

Thank you for your invitation, but I am unable to attend the Subcommittee meeting due to other prior commitments.

I am in support of the government's proposal to raise sewage charges to a level that is commensurate with the unit cost of sewage treatment. Applying the "user pays" principle not only yields a fairer distribution of the costs incurred by society in treating sewage, but also provides an incentive for households and business to economize on the use of fresh water and the generation of sewage. Their effort will contribute to protection and preservation of the environment.

As a member of the former International Review Panel, I would like to comment on a related matter. I hope the government will make a commitment to tertiary treatment (Stage 2b; the government's current position is to reassess the need for this stage years from now), and not to allow "enhanced chemical treatment plus disinfection" with chlorination (Stage 2a) become a distraction from Hong Kong's genuine long term needs to clean up its harbour.

Sincerely,

Leonard K. Cheng
Chair Professor of Economics
HKUST