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Submission on the Proposed Re-Organisation of Policy Bureaus of the Government  
Secretariat to the Legco Panel on Constitutional Affairs  
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The Chief Executive unveiled his plan on the restructuring of policy bureaus on 3 May 2007. The suggested plan of creating a Development Bureau and the shuffling of policy portfolios of the future Environment Bureau will have direct impact on the sustainable development of Hong Kong.

The Development Bureau would be responsible for speeding up the implementation of large-scale projects and *development-related* heritage conservation. But there are two ways of speeding up projects: 1) identifying all the built heritage and landmarks and design the infrastructure afterwards so that they could be preserved in situ or 2) plan the infrastructure first, then see what built heritage or landmarks are in the way and bulldoze them.

It is not yet known what the *modus operandi* of the Development Bureau would be, but heritage conservation is too important to be left to the hands of a single bureau. We suggested that the Development Bureau should seek policy guidelines from the Council on Sustainable Development. And as the Development Bureau is only responsible for *development-related* heritage conservation only, the Environmental Bureau should take up the responsibility of both nature and heritage conservation, besides taking up matters on energy.

We would also like the Development Bureau to speed up sustainable development projects such as HATS2B and Integrated Waste Management Plant.

We are of the opinion that CS should still head the Council for Sustainable Development, as sustainable development cut across all the policy portfolios. The CSD should formulate a Sustainable Development Bill, with a view to giving legal and statutory status to SD policy, such as requiring large scale infrastructure projects such as those responsible by the Development Bureau to conduct sustainability impact assessments (SIA). The Environmental Department should be the enforcement agency.

The Sustainable Development Unit, which serves as the secretariat for CSD, could be under the Environmental Bureau.