



CIWEM HK

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THE CHARTERED INSTITUTION OF
WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT
HONG KONG

香港水務及環境
管理學會

Dr Hon LUI Ming-wah, SBS, JP
The Chairman,
Panel on Constitutional Affairs

FAXED
17/5/07

c/o Clerk to Panel on Constitutional Affairs
Legislative Council Secretariat
3/F, Citibank Tower
3 Garden Road
Central District,
Hong Kong
Attn : Mrs. Fanny Tsang
(Fax No. 2509 9055)

Dear Dr. Lui,

17 May 2007

Legislative Council Panel on Constitutional Affairs
Reorganization of Policy Bureaux of the Government Secretariat :
Changes in Civil Service Organization Structure
Re-organization of the Environment Bureau/ Environmental Protection
Department

We refer to LC Paper (No. CB(2) 1813/06-07(01) of May 2007 put up by the Constitution Affairs Bureau for discussion on 11 May 2007.

The Chartered Institution of Water and Environmental Management Hong Kong (CIWEM HK) wishes to comment on the proposed re-organization of the Environment Bureau brought up by the Constitutional Affairs Bureau. Our views are outlined below:

- We consider the proposal to include energy and sustainable development into the forthcoming Environment Bureau a positive move to improving our environment and our citizens' livelihood.
- We believe it is important that the Permanent Secretary (Environment), now having to take up the two additional policy areas of energy and sustainable development in addition to environment, should be given appropriate professional support at senior levels to effectively and proficiently resolve our pressing environmental problems.
- Hot on the environment agenda are a number of challenging local, trans-boundary, and international issues, including for example regional air quality and emission trading, climate change, implementation of the Harbour

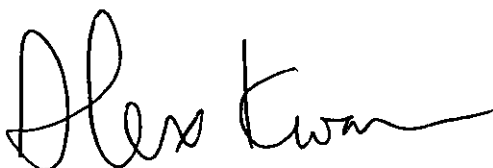
Area Treatment Scheme and Government's framework for municipal solid waste management, environmental impact assessments of major infrastructure projects, etc. To handle these complex issues, we propose that the post of Director of Environmental Protection (DEP) should be re-established to support the Permanent Secretary (Environment), rather than having one person taking up both roles. This will enable the various departmental functions of EPD to be coordinated more efficiently under the leadership of DEP.

- We further suggest that the position of DEP should be taken up by an appropriately qualified environmental professional with experience in both public administration and environmental management. This will be essential to effectively appreciate and effectively deal with the very complex environmental issues facing our society today and in the future. As the head of the department, DEP will have to take the leading role in keeping up the professional capability of the department, so as to ensure that environmental initiatives can be effectively put into practice in all sectors. We believe the DEP with professional knowledge and experience in the environmental sector will certainly assist the Permanent Secretary (Environment) in formulating long term environmental strategies for Hong Kong.-

In view of the forgoing deliberation, CIWEM HK supports the Hong Kong Chinese Servants' Association Environmental Protection Officer Branch's proposal to re-establish the post of Director of Environmental Protection, and for the DEP to be undertaken by a suitably qualified environmental professional.

Should you have any queries on the above comments, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned at 2685 6280, email : alex.kwan@maunsell.aecom.com. CIWEM HK is always ready and supportive to promote the advancement of environmental management.

Yours sincerely,



Alex Kwan (Mr.)
Chairman, CIWEM HK

The Chartered Institution of Water and Environmental Management (CIWEM) is the leading professional body for the body who plan, protect and care for the environment and its resources, providing educational opportunities, independent information to the public and advice to governments. Members in 96 countries include scientists, engineers, ecologists and students. For more information of CIWEM HK, please visit our website at www.ciwem.org.