

Enclosure

Legislative Council - Panel on Environmental Affairs**Summary of views from The Hong Kong Institution of Engineers
on the public participation in taking forward the Framework Agreement in
Hong Kong/Guangdong Co-operation –
Environmental protection and ecology conservation**

The Hong Kong Institution of Engineers, shares the views of the Administration to improve the ecological enhancement and environmental protection co-operation mechanism, to protect the environment and natural ecology of the region, to promote sharing of community resources, to jointly build the Greater Pearl River Delta regional quality living area by making better the natural and community environment for living, is in support of the Framework Agreement which defines the development positioning of Hong Kong/Guangdong Cooperation including cooperation initiatives in environmental protection and ecology conservation. We are pleased to submit herewith our opinions and suggestions on the key cooperation areas for the consideration of the Panel.

Concerted Actions to Prevent and Tackle Air Pollution

2. As the air quality in Hong Kong and Guangdong is so tightly related, we strongly support the commitment from both regions in achieving the 2010 emission reduction targets and their effort to conduct a joint study on the post-2010 arrangements for emission reduction in the PRD region. We look forward to the successful implementation of the Framework Agreement to achieve the air quality objective of the World Health Organization.

Enhancing Cleaner Production in the Region

3. The Cleaner Production Partnership Programme is undoubtedly an effective means in assisting Hong Kong owned enterprises in the PRD region to adopt cleaner production practices. As the 5-year programme can only help around 2,000 out of estimated 50,000 factories to adopt sound cleaner production practices, and to foster wider application of cleaner production technologies amongst the industries in the areas of energy efficiency, air emission reduction and wastewater treatment, therefore we suggest that the Hong Kong and Guangdong governments may consider expanding the programme to cover more factories (no matter they are Hong Kong owned or not) and extending the programme period.

Promoting Wider Use of Electric Vehicles

4. Hong Kong is considered a city that is very suitable for the introduction of electric vehicles, with the fact of its small city size and the short driving distance. These factors make it easier for Hong Kong to build charging infrastructure for electric vehicles. Since the technology and use of electric vehicles are neither mature nor popular at the moment, we suggest that the local R&D institutions/organisations and auto parts industry should grasp this golden opportunity to develop our capability in the design and technology of electric vehicles, especially the core components of them. With this ambition, we shall also cooperate with Guangdong in R&D as well as manufacturing of electric vehicles and its core components.

Once there are more interaction, cooperation and business between Hong Kong and Guangdong on the electric vehicles and related systems, it would greatly help cultivating an environment for promoting a wider adoption of electric vehicles in Hong Kong and the region.

Cooperation in Protecting Marine Water Quality

5. With the continual commitment and effort from the Hong Kong Government in the local water quality, the marine pollution has been put in control and the water quality has also been improved. We support further study and cross-border collaboration to further enhance the marine water quality. We look forward to seeing significant water quality improvement targets and implementation plans.

Promoting the Development of Circular Economy

6. Further to the introduction of Producer Responsibility Scheme in Hong Kong, we should devote more effort in raising the recycling rate of solid waste in the territory. Although we have legislations (Eco-Product Responsibility Ordinance) and infrastructure (e.g. EcoPark) in place, we support to explore means to work closer with the Guangdong on possible cooperation in cross-border recycling of reusable materials.

Cooperation in Ecology and Marine Resources Conservation

7. We support the proposal of carrying out wetland and marine resources conservation projects as well as co-operation and exchanges in the areas of conservation and researches so as to strengthen ecological protection.

8. We also suggest that a common database may be established on the environmental protection and ecology conservation items within the region such that Hong Kong and Guangdong can share the holistic information for a more effective study and implementation of any ecology and marine resources conservation plan and strategy.

9. On the other hand, it may be good to include and consider the possible impacts and measures to be taken for any cross-border projects within the region, namely the Express Rail Link and Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge, etc.