



CIWEM HK

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香港
水务及环境
管理学
会

THE CHARTERED INSTITUTION OF
WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT
HONG KONG

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14 July 2010

Miss Mandy POON
Clerk to Panel
Legislative Council Panel on environmental Affairs

Dear Ms Poon,

Public Participation in Taking Forward the Framework Agreement on Hong Kong/Guangdong Co-operation - Environmental Protection and Ecology Conservation

On behalf of the Chartered Institution of Water and Environmental Management Hong Kong (CIWEM HK), I am pleased to offer our views on the captioned subject as below.

General Comments

The initiatives of establishing wider cooperation with the Guangdong Provincial Government (and also Macao) in environmental protection and ecology conservation is supported in general. In view of the extensive linkages between the HKSAR and the greater PRD region, extended collaboration in the wider context of PRD should be pursued. As a matter of fact, the HKSAR itself cannot be considered in isolation in such issues as infrastructure planning, trans-boundary movement of (air/ water/ waste) pollutants, reliable supply of clean energy source and wider use of renewable, sustainable water supply, prevention of illegal smuggling of endangered species; so on and so forth.

Tackle Air Pollution

- The Administration should elaborate in more details as to how the forthcoming new air quality objectives could fit in the HK/Guangdong scheme of air pollution improvement measures and vice versa. One would expect that both governments should have the emission loading inventory (across certain planning horizon) based on which practicable management measures to be devised with a view to achieving AQOs which should be consistent among both jurisdictions. This will also have implications to various equipment standards (e.g. vehicles, vessels, fuel, VOC machines, abatement standards) and codes of practices, etc.
- Para. 5 in the paper mentioned that both sides are committed to achieving the emission targets by 2010 and will carry out another study on the post-2010 arrangement. In this context, a report on the results of meeting 2010 committed targets should be tabled to inform the public where we are now, any gaps and areas requiring further improvement.

Enhancing Cleaner Production in the Region

- There is great demand from the industry in the Mainland for practical and cost-effective cleaner production technologies in order to improve the enterprises' environmental performance. Although there is a Guangdong-Hong Kong Technology Cooperation Funding Scheme jointly set up by Hong Kong and Guangdong Province, very few environmental technology development projects have been supported by the Hong Kong side under this Scheme. Indeed, more projects should be funded to develop cost-effective environmental solutions, innovative treatment and cleaner production technologies for various kinds of industries.
- In the context of technical support to the energy saving, emission reduction, and treatment and reduction of effluent discharges by Hong Kong-owned factories, Hong Kong professional personnel with training and experience in design, implementation, operation and maintenance of the environmental facilities should be recognized under the Framework for career development in PRD.
- As regards professional prerequisite for environmental professionals, CIWEM is always willing to offer assistance via its corporate membership which is widely recognised in the water and environmental management profession. Members of CIWEM are either Chartered Engineers (CEng), Chartered Scientists (CSci) and/or Chartered Environmentalists (CEnv.) obtained through vigorous professional assessment of core competencies.

Co-operation in Protecting Marine Water Quality

- Both governments should see to make available in the public domain the regional water quality monitoring, pollution inventory and modelling information, i.e. findings of the collaborative studies carried out so far for Mirs Bay and Deep Bay. These information will be useful in future planning, impact assessment and policy study to be carried out by consultants, contractors and academic institutions. The studies as mentioned in the paper could also be delivered as experience sharing workshops among peers in aspects such as: capacity building, case study, lessons learnt and any gaps which require further study.
- The waters of Mirs Bay and Deep Bay areas and the associated water body accommodates wide variety of beneficial uses (BUs), e.g. mariculture, capture fisheries, corals, marine parks, Ramsar site, etc. These BUs however are highly impacted by pollution and economic growth. The HK and Guangdong governments should see to map out the planning intents and areas of specific ecological/conservation interest with the respective environmental standard for reference by stakeholders.

Promoting the Development of Circular Economy

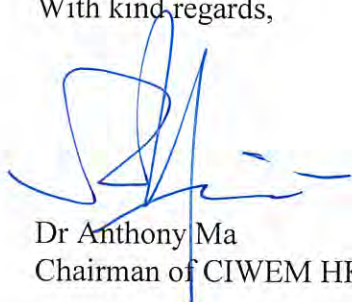
- For the promotion of cross-border recycling, appropriate product specifications in terms of performance and safety requirements should be devised. Furthermore, for the avoidance of secondary pollution arising from treatment and disposal of waste materials, suitable environmental standards in the context of air, water, waste, land contamination should be developed. The overall environmental costs and benefits, carbon reduction and energy footprint of any of the recycling industry to be proposed should be properly evaluated as well.

Co-operation in Ecology and Marine Resources Conservation

- The new initiatives of joint protection of coastal wetland and nature reserve for building cross-boundary green corridor are supported. While it is understood that the feasibility study and consultation on the proposed regional green corridor are yet to be commissioned, the study should take on board such concerns as: i) introduction of invasive species, ii) ecological services provided by restored/created areas, iii) carbon fixing capability; and iv) water and soil management.
- In the context of protecting marine species of conservation importance (e.g. dolphins, horseshoe crab, green turtle, corals, etc.) the Hong Kong and Guangdong sides should ascertain impacts arising from prominent cross-boundary projects will not be insurmountable. These include HK-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge, gas pipeline for Black Point Power Station. Report of environmental monitoring should be published, and suitable mechanism should be in place to evaluate effectiveness of various mitigation/compensation measures.
- While it is understood that both sides have been taking steps to prevent illegal cross-border fishing activities, it is also important to promote sustainable fishing practices. Excessive capture of fish stock including fish fry and juvenile, capture fishing in the vicinity of marine conservation areas, indiscriminate trawling should be prevented as far as practicable.

Should you have any queries in the above, please do not hesitate to contact me (tel: 2788 5613; email: anthonym@hkpc.org)

With kind regards,



Dr Anthony Ma
Chairman of CIWEM HK

Website: www.ciwem.org/branches/hong_kong/