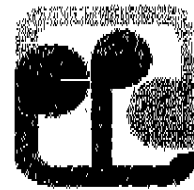


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Clerk to Panel on Environmental Affairs
3rd Floor, Citibank Tower,
3 Garden Road, Hong Kong
(Attn: Miss Becky YU)

13 May 2011

Dear Miss YU,

**Panel on Environmental Affairs
Subcommittee on Improving Air Quality
Follow-up to meeting on 28 January 2011**

At the meeting of the Panel on Environmental Affairs (EA Panel) Subcommittee on Improving Air Quality on 28 January 2011 to discuss the progress of measures under the Pearl River Delta Regional Air Quality Management Plan to achieve the 2010 emission reduction targets, the Administration was requested to provide an annual breakdown on the estimated supply of low-emission buses through retrofitting of Euro II/III buses with selective catalytic reduction (SCR) devices, and replacement of old diesel buses with Euro IV/V models for the period from 2011 to 2015.

On retrofitting Euro II and Euro III buses with SCR devices, we are working with the franchised bus companies to conduct a trial and are making the necessary preparation. We anticipate that the trial could be commenced in around August 2011. We will review the initial findings of the trial six months after its launch. Subject to satisfactory trial results, we will discuss with the franchised bus companies on the details of the SCR retrofit programme including the schedule of the programme and the relevant bus models and number of buses to be involved in the programme.

Regarding the replacement of buses, the franchised bus companies are committed to replacing their buses before they reach 18 years old. It is estimated that about 2,000 buses (about 35% of serving franchised buses), including all pre-Euro and Euro I buses, as well as some Euro II buses, will retire and be replaced between 2011 and 2015, with the estimated annual breakdown being 120, 310, 400, 390 and 780 respectively.

We should be grateful if you would distribute this letter to Members of the EA Panel Subcommittee on Improving Air Quality.

Yours sincerely,



(Edmond K. M. HO)
for Director of Environmental Protection