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**WEST ISLAND SCHOOL**

西島中學

**PRINCIPAL**

Jane P. Foxcroft  
BA, MSc

Hon Donald Tsang, Hong Kong SAR Chief Executive  
Mr. WONG Chi Kong, Alan, JP., Director AFCD  
All members of the Legco Panel on Food and Environmental Hygiene

12th May 2011

To whom it may concern,

We need to stop trawling in Hong Kong waters and let our marine environment recover to a healthy state. Not just for the sake of the sea creatures and the marine ecosystem, but also for the benefit of fishermen, the whole community, and the future generations to come!

80% of all fishing in HK is trawling and it is very destructive as you know so halting it will go a long way to rebuilding and protecting marine life in local waters. In Hong Kong over 1000 trawling vessels are active, the government will compensate fishermen through the use of a trawler buy-out scheme therefore it is a win win situation allowing to alleviate affected livelihoods and free training to shift to sustainable fishing practices.

We are well aware that it is a high costly operation to buy out some 1000 vessels however with Hong Kong's budgetary surplus this year what better time to act. The HKSAR chief executive Donald Tsang has already set aside \$1.7 billion to compensate those affected by this improvement to our judiciary system.

However, there is more to it than just passing legislation, there is still a long way to go, the announcement does not completely clarify the amount of work ahead and what it will take to protect and save our seas. We understand the importance of protecting the livelihood of the many beloved fishermen however this plan can still protect them with the money set aside. We also need to implement these new legislations when passed so that the incident with the marine park fishing legislation two years ago is not repeated.

Thank you for your time, as we truly believe that this is a worthy cause and this legislation to ban trawling for fish in Hong Kong waters deserves to be passed.

Yours sincerely,

Elizabeth Brown and Sweta Mohanty

and the following year 10 students from

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**BAN TRAWLING IN HONG KONG WATERS**

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