

Enclosure**Legislative Council
Bills Committee on Air Pollution Control (Amendment) Bill 2013****Views from the Hong Kong Institution of Engineers
on the Air Pollution Control (Amendment) Bill 2013**

The Hong Kong Institution of Engineers (HKIE) supports the new Hong Kong Air Quality Objectives (AQOs) proposed by the Government as provided in the captioned Bill with a view to promoting the conservation and best use of air in the public interest.

2. The HKIE agrees to pursue the World Health Organisation (WHO) Air Qualities Guidelines as the ultimate targets for Hong Kong to further improve our air quality in long term. We are pleased to provide our professional knowledge in facilitating Hong Kong to attain the new AQOs as soon as practicable as well as other environmental protection standards as appropriate in the future.

3. It is noted from the 2011 Hong Kong Emission Inventory Report¹ released by Environmental Protection Department (EPD) that navigation and road transport are the two major emission sources in Hong Kong. Hence, the HKIE considers that the air improvement measures proposed by the Government such as wider use of hybrid/electric vehicles and the on-shore power should be implemented as early as possible so as to reduce emissions from these two localised emission sources.

4. Also, public electricity generation is one of the major emission sources in Hong Kong. Although local power plants have reduced their emissions in recent years, pursuing further reduction from such source is of vital importance to improve the local air quality. We welcome the Government's initiative for consultation in relation to the revamp of fuel mix in Hong Kong later this year. In the next periodic AQOs review, the outcome from the consultation on fuel mix should be put for consideration.

5. In regard to the transitional arrangement, while it is appreciated that there will be a 36-month transitional period from the commencement date of the new AQOs for the existing projects already granted with environmental permits, the HKIE would like to suggest the Government to study the concerns of various stakeholders and provide elaboration and explanation in technical details for the arrangements and impact over the transitional period.

6. The HKIE welcomes the introduction of Particulate Matter 2.5 (PM2.5) as one of the criteria pollutants in the proposed new AQOs. It is agreed that the standard for PM2.5 under the proposed new AQOs (pitched at the WHO IT-1 (Interim Target-1) level) would serve as a starting point and will be subject to review in future. However, according to EPD's ambient air monitoring data, over half of the general stations and all roadside stations in the year 2012 recorded daily exceedance of the

¹ Environmental Protection Department (2013). 2011 Hong Kong Emission Inventory Report
<http://www.epd.gov.hk/epd/english/environmentinhk/air/data/files/2011HKEIRreport.pdf>

proposed AQOs on PM2.5. This suggests that the set level for PM2.5 in Hong Kong may be relatively high. Noting that the PM2.5 level in Hong Kong has been under strong regional influence and that emissions of particulate in Hong Kong and the Pearl River Delta region are in the proportion of 1:99, and as relatively little can be done if continual AQOs exceedance on PM2.5 is recorded, the Government may consider if it would be more practical to review the standard based on further available data and views from all stakeholders.

7. We appreciate the efforts made by the Government in organising public consultation and stakeholder engagement since mid 2009 in formulating the proposed new AQOs. Further to this, we suggest that the community and all stakeholders, including professional bodies like the HKIE, should be well consulted before the Government puts forward other review initiatives for the next periodic review exercise on the subject.