

**Replies to supplementary questions raised by Finance Committee Members in examining the  
Estimates of Expenditure 2013-14**

**Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment  
Session No. : 7**

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**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

**S-ENB01**

Question Serial No.

S183

Head: 22 Agriculture, Fisheries and  
Conservation Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (2) Nature Conservation and Country Parks

Controlling Officer: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

Regarding Reply Serial No. ENB024, it is noted that in recent years the Guangdong Province has repeatedly arranged for removal of Mikania manually. However, the effects are minimal and Mikania is proliferating now. Has the Administration conducted any exchanges with the Guangdong Province in this aspect or joined hands with it in exploring various biological or chemical prevention and control measures? If yes, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon. LO Wai-kwok

Reply:

The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) maintains close contact and cooperation with Guangdong authorities in relation to nature conservation, including control of weeds like Mikania. In 2002, AFCD collaborated with the Guangdong Forestry Bureau to conduct a 2-year study on the prevention and control of Mikania in Hong Kong and the Guangdong Province. The study identified a herbicide, Sulfometuron-methyl, as an effective means for controlling the growth of Mikania. However, application of the herbicide is rather restrictive as it is not suitable for sites near residential areas, water sources or active agricultural lands.

Name in block letters: Alan WONG

Post Title: Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation

Date: 15 April 2013

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

**S-ENB02**

Question Serial No.

S180

Head: 33 Civil Engineering and Development Department                      Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (7) Management of Construction and Demolition Materials

Controlling Officer: Director of Civil Engineering and Development

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question:

Under Reply Serial No. ENB036, in regard to the handling of public fill, would the Administration advise what is the total amount of construction and demolition (C & D) material temporarily stockpiled for the preparation of reclamation? What is the stockpiling sites distribution and their specific locations and area?

Asked by: Hon. LO Wai-kwok

Reply:

As at end 2012, a total of 18.8 million tonnes of surplus inert construction and demolition (C&D) materials were stockpiled at the two fill banks at Tseung Kwan O and Tuen Mun, with details as listed in the table below:

	Tseung Kwan O Area 137 Fill Bank	Tuen Mun Area 38 Fill Bank
Quantities of Inert C&D Materials Stockpiled (million tonnes)	14.0	4.8
Area (hectares)	104	31

Name in block letters: C K HON

Post Title: Director of Civil Engineering and Development

Date: 16 April 2013

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

**S-ENB03**

Question Serial No.

SV022

Head: 44 Environmental Protection Department      Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (1) Waste

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question: Pursuant to reply no. ENB158, the Administration is requested to provide information on how it monitors and regulates the operations of the 500 commercial recyclers in Hong Kong to minimize fire hazards and incidents of fire in those operations.

(There are currently about 500 commercial recyclers operating at various locations in Hong Kong collecting higher valued recyclables, i.e. paper, metals and good quality plastics.)

Asked by: Hon. FANG Kang, Vincent

Reply:

There are currently about 500 recyclers operating at various locations in Hong Kong. The recyclable items include metal, plastic, waste paper, electrical and electronic equipment and other materials. Like establishments of other industries, the recycling yards must comply with the relevant statutory requirements in Hong Kong.

In general, recycling yards for storage use do not need to obtain a specific environmental licence. However, the dust, noise, wastewater or waste generated by the recycling yards are subject to control under relevant pollution control ordinances.

At present, upon receipt of the referral of waste recycling yards applications from the Lands Department (LandsD) or the Planning Department (PlanD), the Fire Services Department (FSD) will conduct a risk assessment taking into account the actual circumstances of individual applications and set out the related fire safety requirements. In addition, the FSD will develop contingency plans based on the findings of the risk assessment and provide the related fire safety knowledge to the operators. Should the applicant fail to comply with the relevant FSD's fire requirements, the FSD may inform the LandsD or the PlanD together with relevant follow-up recommendations. If the waste recycling yards involve storage of dangerous goods, they must meet all relevant requirements under the Dangerous Goods Ordinance.

Name in block letters: ANISSA WONG

Post Title: Permanent Secretary for the Environment /  
Director of Environmental Protection

Date: 16 April 2013

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

**S-ENB04**

Question Serial No.

S054

Head: 44 Environmental Protection Department      Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (1) Waste

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question: Please inform the Committee of the following:

1. The construction costs of each landfill in Hong Kong (including the closed landfills).
2. The annual operation and maintenance costs for the above existing and closed landfills.
3. The handling costs for disposal of one tonne of waste at landfills based on the above two sets of figures.

Asked by: Hon. HO Sau-lan, Cyd

Reply:

1. The construction costs of the existing landfills are shown in the table below.

	<b>Construction Costs (\$ million) (in MOD prices)</b>
South East New Territories Landfill	2,200
West New Territories Landfill	2,000
North East New Territories Landfill	1,100

The costs of restoration works for the closed landfills are shown in the table below.

	<b>Costs of Restoration Works<sup>1</sup> (\$ million)</b>
Tseung Kwan O Landfill	370
North West New Territories Landfills <sup>2</sup> & Gin Drinkers Bay Landfill	332
Five urban landfills <sup>3</sup>	249
Pillar Point Valley Landfill	199
Shuen Wan Landfill	162

2. The operation costs of the existing landfills in 2012-13 are shown in the table below.

	<b>Operation Costs (\$ million) (estimate)</b>
South East New Territories Landfill	218
West New Territories Landfill	223
North East New Territories Landfill	150

The operation costs on aftercare and environmental monitoring for the closed landfills in 2012-13 are shown in the table below.

	<b>Operation Costs on Aftercare &amp; Environmental Monitoring (\$ million) (estimate)</b>
Tseung Kwan O Landfill	18
North West New Territories Landfills <sup>2</sup> & Gin Drinkers Bay Landfill	18
Five urban landfills <sup>3</sup>	8
Pillar Point Valley Landfill	14
Shuen Wan Landfill	4

Note: 1. The original construction costs, operational costs on aftercare and environmental monitoring of the landfills are excluded.

2. North West New Territories Landfills consist of Ma Tso Lung Landfill, Siu Lang Shui Landfill and Ngau Tam Mei Landfill.

3. The urban landfills consist of Jordan Valley Landfill, Ma Yau Tong Central Landfill, Ma Yau Tong West Landfill, Sai Tso Wan Landfill and Ngau Chi Wan Landfill.

3. The total handling cost for disposal of one tonne of waste at the existing landfills is estimated to be \$179 in 2012-13.

Name in block letters: ANISSA WONG

Post Title: Permanent Secretary for the Environment /  
Director of Environmental Protection

Date: 11 April 2013

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

**S-ENB05**

Question Serial No.

S043

Head: 44 Environmental Protection Department      Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (1) Waste

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question: Based on Reply Serial No. ENB174:

Are eco-blocks on the Government's green procurement list? If no, what are the reasons and is there any plan to include eco-blocks in the list?

Asked by: Hon. KWOK Wai-keung

Reply:

The Government has been developing green specifications for products commonly used by bureaux and departments and incorporates these products into the Government's green procurement list. At present, eco-blocks are not amongst the 103 products on the Government's green procurement list. However, according to another green procurement circular in relation to public works projects, we encourage wider use of green products (including those containing recycled materials) in public works projects whenever the technical performance of the green products is proved to be satisfactory, subject to adequate market supply. In this connection, since October 2010, we have been using eco-pavers in maintenance, as well as some of the renovation and new public works projects by works department. In the past two years, about 160 000 square metres of eco-pavers were used annually in the public works projects on average.

We commissioned a new consultancy study in February 2013 to expand the Government's green procurement list and to update the current green specifications of 103 products. We would consider whether it is appropriate to include eco-blocks into the Government's green procurement list.

Name in block letters: ANISSA WONG

Post Title: Permanent Secretary for the Environment /  
Director of Environmental Protection

Date: 15 April 2013

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

**S-ENB06**

Question Serial No.

S044

Head: 44 Environmental Protection Department      Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (1) Waste

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question: Based on Reply Serial No. ENB174:

How many eco-blocks made of waste glass were procured for use in government works in each of the past 5 years (i.e. 2008-09 to 2012-13)? What were the expenses?

Asked by: Hon. KWOK Wai-keung

Reply:

Highways Department has since October 2010 required the priority use of eco-pavers with recycled glass content in the public road maintenance contracts while other Works Departments have also started adopting the use of these eco-pavers in their works projects as appropriate. In the past two years, an average of about 160 000 square metres of eco-pavers was used annually in the public works projects and the expenditure involved in the relevant works was about \$52 million a year

Name in block letters: ANISSA WONG

Post Title: Permanent Secretary for the Environment /  
Director of Environmental Protection

Date: 11 April 2013



**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

**S-ENB07**

Question Serial No.

S045

Head: 44 Environmental Protection Department      Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (1) Waste

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question: Based on Reply Serial No. ENB179:

Has the Administration assessed the costs and prices of the compost products made by the organic waste treatment facilities and made a comparison with those of the compost products in the existing market? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon. KWOK Wai-keung

Reply:

Market survey for compost produced from the Organic Waste Treatment Facilities (OWTF) upon their commissioning had been carried out under the OWTF Phase 1 feasibility study and feedback from compost users was positive. The survey also showed that the users would be willing to purchase the compost produced from the OWTF at market price. Tender for the design, build and operation (DBO) of OWTF Phase 1 was invited on 8 February 2013. The cost of developing this facility as well as the selling price of the compost will depend on the tender result.

Name in block letters: ANISSA WONG

Post Title: Permanent Secretary for the Environment /  
Director of Environmental Protection

Date: 15 April 2013

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

**S-ENB08**

Question Serial No.

S046

Head: 44 Environmental Protection Department      Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (1) Waste

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question: Based on Reply Serial No. ENB179:

What measures does the Administration have to ensure the market competitiveness of the compost products made by the organic waste treatment facilities, so that they will not become unattractive due to excessively high costs and pricing?

Asked by: Hon. KWOK Wai-keung

Reply:

Market survey for compost produced from the Organic Waste Treatment Facilities (OWTF) upon their commissioning had been carried out under the OWTF Phase 1 feasibility study and feedback from compost users was positive. The survey also showed that the users would be willing to purchase the compost produced from the OWTF at market price. Tender for the design, build and operation (DBO) of OWTF Phase 1 was invited on 8 February 2013. The cost of developing this facility as well as the selling price of the compost will depend on the tender result. The open tendering process will effectively reflect the competitiveness the OWTF compost products in the open market.

Name in block letters: ANISSA WONG

Post Title: Permanent Secretary for the Environment /  
Director of Environmental Protection

Date: 15 April 2013

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

**S-ENB09**

Question Serial No.

S047

Head: 44 Environmental Protection Department      Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (1) Waste

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question: Based on Reply Serial No. ENB179:

It is estimated that about 35 permanent posts can be created after the first phase of the organic waste treatment facilities come into operation. Would the Administration elaborate on the functions of these 35 permanent posts?

Asked by: Hon. KWOK Wai-keung

Reply:

We estimate that about 35 permanent posts would be created when the Organic Waste Treatment Facilities Phase 1 comes into operation. The functions of these 35 permanent posts are summarized as follows:

<b>Post</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Function</b>
Professional/Technical Staff	25	Responsible for the management, supervision, operation, repair and maintenance, and administration of the facility
Labourers	10	Assist in the daily operation of the facility including security, cleaning and driving
Total	35	

Name in block letters: ANISSA WONG

Post Title: Permanent Secretary for the Environment /  
Director of Environmental Protection

Date: 11 April 2013

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

**S-ENB10**

Question Serial No.

S048

Head: 44 Environmental Protection Department      Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: (1) Waste

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question: According to Reply Serial No. ENB181:

The Administration has taken measures to prevent odour and other environmental nuisances caused by landfills, but air complaints related to landfills are on the increasing trend. Has the Administration reviewed the effectiveness of the measures? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon. KWOK Wai-keung

Reply:

The three strategic landfills are designed and operated to meet various environmental standards, including additional improvement measures to prevent odour and other environmental nuisances in order to further mitigate any potential odour impact to the surrounding areas. Despite the implementation of such measures, the population of communities close to the landfills has been growing and there are more feedbacks and complaints from members of the public who are increasingly concerned about their living environment. On the other hand, odour is a very subjective issue. The threshold of tolerance for odour varies from person to person. Hence, while these measures have effectively reduced and alleviated the odour problem, it is difficult to ensure that nearby residents are completely satisfied with different environmental circumstances.

The Environmental Protection Department (EPD) appointed an independent consultant to carry out an independent audit of the potential odour impact of the operation of the South East New Territories (SENT) Landfill in 2006. According to the audit report, the operation of the Landfill met the contract requirements and was in line with the best international practices in landfill management. Nonetheless, the independent consultant recommended improvement measures in the audit report, such as setting up additional deodorisers for priority treatment of odour from vehicles using access road/weighbridges, and putting a mobile cover on the special waste trench. These measures could further enhance the odour management of the SENT Landfill, and have been implemented. Apart from the recommendations in the audit report, the EPD has also implemented a series of additional odour control measures. These measures include reducing the size of the tipping areas; covering the tipping areas with a layer of soil followed by Posi-Shell Cover material (a cement-based cover material) at the end of the daily waste reception process; covering the non-active tipping areas with impermeable synthetic liners or Posi-Shell Cover material; installing additional landfill gas extraction wells, pipes and landfill gas flaring units for the collection and treatment of landfill gas, upgrading the wheel washing facility to a full-body vehicle washing facility, etc.

We have also commissioned the Hong Kong Polytechnic University and subsequently the Technological and Higher Education Institute of Hong Kong since July 2010 to conduct independent odour patrol at the SENT Landfill. The results of the patrols showed that the landfill operation had no impact on the surrounding environment. However, the EPD has further commissioned an independent consultant in mid-2012 to conduct an independent audit of the SENT Landfill operation with the above odour management measures implemented so as to further assess the operation of the SENT Landfill and the performance of odour control measures. The auditing work has been substantially completed, and the audit report is under preparation.

Name in block letters: ANISSA WONG

Post Title: Permanent Secretary for the Environment /  
Director of Environmental Protection

Date: 11 April 2013

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

**S-ENB11**

Question Serial No.

S049

Head: 44 Environmental Protection Department      Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: (1) Waste

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question: Based on Reply Serial No. ENB181:

Please list the improvement measures taken by the Administration for each of the landfills, the years in which the measures were implemented as well as the expenses incurred.

Asked by: Hon. KWOK Wai-keung

Reply:

Over the past 5 financial years (2008-09 to 2012-13), we have implemented a number of additional improvement measures at the landfills in order to further mitigate the potential odour impact of the operation of the landfills on the surrounding areas. These measures and their costs are as follows:

Additional measures implemented at the South East New Territories (SENT) Landfill include:

- minimizing the size of tipping areas as far as practicable
- putting a mobile cover on the special waste trench
- covering the tipping areas with a layer of soil and/or Posi-Shell Cover (a cement-based cover material) at the end of the daily waste reception process
- covering the non-active tipping areas, which are already covered with soil, with temporary impermeable liners or Posi-Shell Cover
- setting up deodorizers
- installing extra landfill gas extraction wells and mobile flares
- upgrading the wheel washing facility to a full-body vehicle washing facility

Additional measures implemented at the West New Territories (WENT) Landfill include:

- minimising the size of tipping areas as far as practicable

- covering the tipping areas with a layer of soil and/or Posi-Shell Cover at the end of the daily waste reception process
- covering the non-active tipping areas, which are already covered with soil, with temporary impermeable liners or Posi-Shell Cover
- setting up deodorizers
- installing extra landfill gas extraction wells and mobile flares
- installing temporary screen barriers

The North East New Territories (NENT) Landfill:

Since the NENT Landfill is comparatively farther away from the residential areas and the measures already in place can effectively control the spread of odour, there is no need to install additional facilities. Notwithstanding this, the NENT Landfill has implemented the following measures in its daily operation, including:

- minimising the size of tipping areas as far as practicable
- covering the tipping areas with a layer of soil at the end of the daily waste reception process
- covering the non-active tipping areas, which are already covered with soil, with temporary impermeable liners

Costs of installing the additional facilities:

<b>Landfill</b>	<b>2008-09 (\$ million)</b>	<b>2009-10 (\$ million)</b>	<b>2010-11 (\$ million)</b>	<b>2011-12 (\$ million)</b>	<b>2012-13 (\$ million)</b>
SENT Landfill	16.7	6.1	17.6	31.3	3.5
WENT Landfill	—	—	3.5	2.5	1.5

Remarks:

1. The recurrent costs have been absorbed in the operational costs.
2. Figures may not add up to total due to rounding off.

Name in block letters: ANISSA WONG

Post Title: Permanent Secretary for the Environment /  
Director of Environmental Protection

Date: 11 April 2013

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

**S-ENB12**

Question Serial No.

S050

Head: 44 Environmental Protection Department      Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: (1) Waste

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question: Based on Reply Serial No. ENB182:

Would the Administration advise on the amount of waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE) generated in Hong Kong annually in each of the past five years (i.e. 2008-09 to 2012-13)?

Asked by: Hon. KWOK Wai-keung

Reply:

The Environmental Protection Department have collected relevant data relating to waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE) through consultancy studies and landfill surveys. The quantities of WEEE generated in Hong Kong between 2007 and 2011 are set out in the table below:

<b>Year</b>	<b>Generation (Thousand tonnes)</b>
2007	70.1
2008	71.4
2009	72.0
2010	74.0
2011	75.4

Data for 2012 is not yet available.

Name in block letters: ANISSA WONG

Post Title: Permanent Secretary for the Environment /  
Director of Environmental Protection

Date: 11 April 2013



**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

**S-ENB13**

Question Serial No.

S051

Head: 44 Environmental Protection Department      Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: (1) Waste

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question: Based on Reply Serial No. ENB182:

Has the Administration assessed if the facility is sufficient to cope with the needs? If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon. KWOK Wai-keung

Reply:

Hong Kong generates more than 70 000 tonnes of waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE) annually, some of which can be reused. For others requiring treatment, given that other private recyclers may also provide treatment services, the WEEE treatment facility to be developed in the EcoPark with a designed capacity of 30 000 tonnes per annum will be able to provide sufficient support to the future mandatory Producer Responsibility Scheme which will cover television sets, washing machines, refrigerators, air conditioners and computer products.

Name in block letters: ANISSA WONG

Post Title: Permanent Secretary for the Environment /  
Director of Environmental Protection

Date: 11 April 2013

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

**S-ENB14**

Question Serial No.

S052

Head: 44 Environmental Protection Department      Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: (1) Waste

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question: According to Reply Serial Number ENB186, there are 8 standard berthing spaces in the marine frontage of the EcoPark. However, they were used 33 times in total only between 2010 and 2012:

Has the Administration looked into the reasons for the low usage of the berthing spaces? Is it because marine transport is not involved in the tenants' operation or due to inconvenience in the marine transport routes or expensive berthing costs? Or is it because the ancillary facilities (e.g. winching installations etc.) at the berthing spaces are not sufficient?

Asked by: Hon. KWOK Wai-keung

Reply:

Between 2010 and 2012, the usage of the berthing spaces in the marine frontage of the EcoPark was 33 times. During the period, the usage of the berthing spaces was relatively low since there were only a small number of tenants and the operation of most of the tenants was at an initial stage. As the 6 new tenants in Phase 2 of the EcoPark will commence operation one after another in 2013-14, it is estimated that there will be increase in the usage of berthing spaces by then.

Name in block letters: ANISSA WONG

Post Title: Permanent Secretary for the Environment /  
Director of Environmental Protection

Date: 15 April 2013

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

**S-ENB15**

Question Serial No.

S053

Head: 44 Environmental Protection Department      Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: (1) Waste

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question: According to Reply Serial Number ENB186, there are 8 standard berthing spaces in the marine frontage of the EcoPark. However, they were used 33 times in total only between 2010 and 2012:

What measures does the Administration have to boost the usage of the berthing spaces?

Asked by: Hon. KWOK Wai-keung

Reply:

Between 2010 and 2012, the usage of the berthing spaces in the marine frontage of the EcoPark was 33 times. The Environmental Protection Department and the management company of the EcoPark have been maintaining close communication with the tenants to ensure that the operation of and arrangements for the berthing spaces and other facilities in the EcoPark can tie in with the development of the recycling business of the tenants. We will continue to maintain close liaison with the tenants and implement appropriate measures as needed to help the tenants develop their recycling business. With the business expansion of the tenants already in operation and the commissioning of 6 new tenants in Phase 2 of the EcoPark in 2013-14, it is estimated that there will be increase in the usage of berthing spaces.

Name in block letters: ANISSA WONG

Post Title: Permanent Secretary for the Environment /  
Director of Environmental Protection

Date: 15 April 2013

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

**S-ENB16**

Question Serial No.

S036

Head: 44 Environmental Protection Department      Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: .

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question: The Cable TV reported on 15 July 2012 that the DAB Community Services Limited was allocated \$670,000 for replacing with energy saving light bulbs at singleton elders' homes in Wong Tai Sin. When the voluntary workers visited their homes to replace light bulbs, they wore uniforms printed with the words "DAB", suspectedly for political propaganda purposes ([http://cablenews.i-cable.com/webapps/news\\_video/index.php?news\\_id=388004](http://cablenews.i-cable.com/webapps/news_video/index.php?news_id=388004)). What follow-up actions did the Administration take about this?

Asked by: Hon. LEE Cheuk-yan

Reply:

The Environment and Conservation Fund (ECF) has set out clear requirements in its Guide to Application for funded projects. In no circumstances shall the name and logo of the ECF be used for commercial publicity or other purposes. When informing the applicants of the approval of their applications, the Secretariat will once again remind them that the use of the ECF funded projects for purposes of political, religious or commercial publicity of any individuals or organisations is prohibited. Any breach of or non-compliance with the funding conditions may result in the suspension or termination of the ECF funding support and may affect the organisations' future chance of receiving funding support.

The activity mentioned in the media report is a funded project named "Light for the Elderly" under the Energy Conservation Education Programmes of the ECF. The project aims to promote green home concept to the Wong Tai Sin residents and enhance their environmental protection awareness by replacing with energy saving light bulbs at the homes of the elderly, the CSSA recipients and low-income families in the district. The recipient organisation is the DAB Community Services Limited. The project was launched in March 2010 and completed long ago in August 2011.

After learning about the media report, the Secretariat of the Energy Conservation Projects Vetting Subcommittee under the ECF immediately contacted the recipient organisation to acquire an understanding of the matter. In reply, the organisation said that to effectively take forward the project activity, it had invited various groups apart from their own volunteers to collaborate in helping with registration for the elderly and replacement of energy saving light bulbs. Given that the activity involved various groups and the elderly might have concerns about the volunteers' identity, the recipient organisation arranged for the volunteers to wear a uniform for identification purposes. As the organisation did not provide any uniform specifically, it arranged for the volunteers to wear the uniform of its parent political party to represent the organisation when providing services, including on-site replacement of energy saving light bulbs, during the

activity period. Besides, the logo of the organisation printed on the promotional materials only served to facilitate identification of the organiser. The recipient organisation has apologised for any misunderstanding and confusion caused to the public by such arrangement. After investigation, we have reported the incident to the Energy Conservation Projects Vetting Subcommittee under the ECF. After careful deliberation, the Subcommittee was of the view that the recipient organisation, by arranging for volunteers and related personnel to wear the uniform of the political party and highlighting the name of the party in the promotional materials during the implementation of the “Light for the Elderly” project, would give a political propaganda impression to the general public. Hence, the Subcommittee deemed the arrangement inappropriate. It has issued a letter to the recipient organisation to express its views and remind the organisation again of the need to comply with the terms and conditions for approval under the funding scheme, as well as the possible consequence of suspension or termination of funding support.

After the above investigation, we have reminded all funded organisations again in writing to observe the rules regarding promotion matters under the funding scheme, including the prohibition of use of all activities, promotions and other efforts under the projects, as well as all the related educational, promotional or other materials for any individual, political, commercial or religious publicity for any individual or group. We have also enhanced the guidelines on the promotion of ECF funded projects to ensure that such projects will not be used as a tool for any individual, political, commercial or religious publicity.

Name in block letters: ANISSA WONG

Post Title: Permanent Secretary for the Environment /  
Director of Environmental Protection

Date: 11 April 2013

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

**S-ENB17**

Question Serial No.

S037

Head: 44 Environmental Protection Department      Subhead (No. & title):

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question: A number of newspapers reported on 8 April 2013 that the Youth Power of Kwai Tsing was allocated more than \$580,000 for replacing with energy saving light bulbs for elders. However, elders had to go to DAB offices for registration. This casts doubt on whether the Fund is helping DAB to conduct publicity. What follow-up actions will the Administration take about this?

Asked by: Hon. LEE Cheuk-yan

Reply:

The Environment and Conservation Fund (ECF) has set out clear requirements in its Guide to Application for funded projects. In no circumstances shall the name and logo of the ECF be used for commercial publicity or other purposes. When informing the applicants of the approval of their applications, the Secretariat will once again remind them that the use of the ECF funded projects for purposes of political, religious or commercial publicity of any individuals or organisations is prohibited. Any breach of or non-compliance with the funding conditions may result in the suspension or termination of the ECF funding support and may affect the organisations' future chance of receiving funding support.

The project concerned is a funded project named "Shine in Kwai Tsing for Environmental Power" under the Energy Conservation Education Programmes of the ECF. The project aims to promote widely the importance of energy saving and environmental protection in the district by replacing light bulbs for the elderly and holding energy saving activities. It takes the elderly as a starting point and keeps on promoting the concept of environmental protection to other age groups. After learning about the media report, the ECF immediately required the recipient organisation to provide details and response in respect of the matter, so as to ensure that the project had not been used for political publicity. We will consider the need to take further follow-up actions having regard to the information provided by the recipient organisation.

Name in block letters: ANISSA WONG

Post Title: Permanent Secretary for the Environment /  
Director of Environmental Protection

Date: 11 April 2013

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
ORAL QUESTION**

**S-ENB18**

Question Serial No.

SV021

Head: 137 Government Secretariat :  
Environment Bureau

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question: Pursuant to paragraph 3 of the opening remarks by Secretary for the Environment, the Administration is requested to provide further information on the 21 additional posts to be created in the Environment Bureau and the Environmental Protection Department in 2013-14.

Asked by: Hon. LO Wai-kwok

Reply:

**Environment Bureau**

In 2013-14, there will be a net increase of 4 non-directorate posts under Head 137— Government Secretariat: Environment Bureau. The details are as follows-

<b>Post</b>	<b>No.</b>	<b>Remarks</b>
(a) 1 STA, 2 AOIs	+3	Monitoring financial operation and technical performance of the power companies in Hong Kong (time-limited for three years from 2013-14 to 2015-16)
(b) 1ACO, 1 PCH	+2	Support to the Principal Official's Office
(c) 1 CH	-1	Offset creation of 1 PCH post
Net increase:	+4	

**Abbreviations**

STA	Senior Treasury Accountant
AOI	Accounting Officer I
ACO	Assistant Clerical Officer
PCH	Personal Chauffeur
CH	Chauffeur

## **Environmental Protection Department**

In 2013-14, there will be a net increase of 17 non-directorate posts under Head 44—Environmental Protection Department. The details are as follows –

<b>Post</b>	<b>No.</b>	<b>Main Duties</b>
(a) 1 SEPO, 1 EPO, 1 EPI	+3	Pre-Euro-IV diesel commercial vehicles phasing out programme (time-limited for three years from 2013-14 to 2015-16)
(b) 2 EPOs	+2	Programme on Source Separation of Waste and management of waste recovery and recycling data
(c) 1 EPO	+1	Planning and management of sewerage infrastructure projects
(d) 1 EPO, 1 SEPI, 1 EPI	+3	Supporting the network of Community Green Stations (time-limited for three years from 2013-14 to 2015-16)
(e) 1 EPO, 1 EPI	+2	Enforcement of the Motor Vehicle Idling (Fixed Penalty) Ordinance (Time-limited for two years from 2013-14 to 2014-15)
(f) 3 EPIs	+3	Supervision of the construction and operation of the Sludge Treatment Facility
(g) 4 EPIs	+4	Implementation of the Construction Waste Disposal Charging Scheme
(h) 1 EPI	+1	Technical support to the Air Policy Group
(i) 1 EOII	+1	Administrative support to the Community Relations Unit
(j) 1 SEPO	-1	Lapse of time limited post
(k) 1 EPO	-1	Lapse of time limited post
(l) 1 CA	-1	Offset creation of 1 ACO in ENB
Net increase	+17	

### **Abbreviations**

SEPO	Senior Environmental Protection Officer
EPO	Environmental Protection Officer
SEPI	Senior Environmental Protection Inspector
EPI	Environmental Protection Inspector
EOII	Executive Officer II
CA	Clerical Assistant



Name in block letters: ANISSA WONG

Post Title: Permanent Secretary for the  
Environment

Date: 11 April 2013

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

**S-ENB19**

Question Serial No.

S133

Head: 137 Government Secretariat :  
Environment Bureau

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for the Environment

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question: In connection with the provision of public information and gathering of public opinions by means of the Internet, please advise of the following:

- (a) the particulars, in tabulated forms (see Question Annex 1), regarding the social media platforms set up and operated by bureaux/departments/public bodies or their agents (such as out-sourced contractors or consultants) for the past 3 years (2010-11, 2011-12 and 2012-13).
- (b) Using the table below (see Question Annex 2), provide information on practical training received by Government officers in social media.
- (c) In respect of the setting up and operation of social media platforms, did the Administration provide Government officers with guidelines on the operation and use of social media and encourage Government agencies to strengthen communication with the public by means of social media? If yes, what are the details? If no, does the Government have any plan to formulate such guidelines? If there is no such a plan, what are the reasons?
- (d) In recent years, governments around the world have introduced systems through which citizens may hand in their online proposals. They have also undertaken that they would give a formal online response if a certain number of citizens have indicated their support of the proposals. Did the Administration look into ways to improve the existing channels for collecting public opinions on the Internet and evaluate the feasibility of collecting public opinions on the Internet through the above systems. If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon. MOK, Charles Peter

Question Annex 1

Commencement of operation (Month/ Year)	Status (keeps on updating / ceased updating ) (as at 28 February 2013)	Government agencies (including policy bureaux/ departments/ public bodies/ government consultants)	Name	Social media (Facebook/ Flickr/ Google+/ LinkedIn/ Sina Weibo/ Twitter/ YouTube)	Purpose of establishment and no. of updates (as at 28 February 2013)	No. of “Likes”/ subscribers/ average monthly visits (as at 28 February 2013)	Compilation of summary of comments and follow-up on a regular basis (Yes/ No)	Rank and No. of officers responsible for the operation (as at 28 February 2013)	Financial resources involved in the establishment and daily operation (as at 28 February 2013)
			(1)	(1)					
			(2)	(2)					
			(3)	(3)					

Date (Month/ Year)	Status (under progress/ completed) (as at 28 February 2013)	Government agencies (including policy bureaux/ departments/ public bodies/ government consultants)	Name of course provider	Course title	Course content (Facebook/ Flickr/ Google+/ LinkedIn/ Sina Weibo/ Twitter/ YouTube)	No. of officers participated and completed a course (as at 28 February 2013)	Total no. of training hours (as at 28 February 2013)	Rank and no. of officers participated in training (as at 28 February 2013)	Financial resources involved in training (as at 28 February 2013)
				(1) ... (2) ... (3) ...	(1) ... (2) ... (3) ...				

Reply:

- (a) For the past 3 years, we have not set up any social media platforms for the provision of public information or collection of public opinion via the internet.
- (b) Information related to the training received by our staff in social media in the past 3 years is detailed in Reply Annex 1.
- (c) Office of the Government Chief Information Officer has set up a thematic website on the use of social media for reference by bureaux/departments. It provides information on social media, including the forms of social media in public engagement and its potential use, guidelines for the use of social media, centralised web-based tool for creating Facebook applications and quick tips for developing social media applications.
- (d) At the moment, we have no plan to collect public opinions on the Internet through the above systems.

Name in block letters: ANISSA WONG

Post Title: Permanent Secretary for the Environment

Date: 15 April 2013

<b>Date (Month/ Year)</b>	<b>Status (under progress/ completed) (as at 28 February 2013)</b>	<b>Government agencies (including policy bureaux/ departments/ public bodies/ government consultants)</b>	<b>Name of course provider</b>	<b>Course title</b>	<b>Course content (Facebook/ Flickr/ Google+/ LinkedIn/ Sina Weibo/ Twitter/ YouTube)</b>	<b>No. of officers participated and completed a course (as at 28 February 2013)</b>	<b>Total no. of training hours (as at 28 February 2013)</b>	<b>Rank and no. of officers participated in training (as at 28 February 2013)</b>	<b>Financial resources involved in training (as at 28 February 2013)</b>
Dec 2010 & Jan 2011	Completed	Environmental Protection Department	Office of the Government Chief Information Officer (OGCIO) & Civil Service Training and Development Institute (CSTDI)	Workshop on “Using Social Media and Online Platforms in E-engagem ent Projects” (0.5 day)	Introduction of setting up and using social media and online tools, marketing and measuring performance for e-engagement projects	3	1.5 days	Environmental Protection Officer: 1  Environmental Protection Inspector: 1  Information Technology Project Manager : 1	Financial resources involved in training was funded by OGCIO & CSTDI

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

**S-ENB20**

Question Serial No.

S042

Head: 137 Government Secretariat :  
Environment Bureau

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for the Environment

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question: In reply to my request raised at the meeting for the Administration to allocate resources for examining the impact of radiofrequency radiation pollution on public health, the Secretary for the Environment said at the meeting that he would look into the matter. Would the Secretary provide specific details on how the issue will be followed up?

Asked by: Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply:

While the subject matter of health impact of radiofrequency radiation is not under the purview of the Environment Bureau, we have no plans to conduct study in this regard. Meanwhile, the Food and Health Bureau and the Department of Health have been paying attention to studies on the effect of electromagnetic field (including radiofrequency radiation) on human health. Besides, the Office of the Communications Authority has been monitoring mobile telephone base stations installations, with a view to ensuring that its radiation level would not exceed the limit stipulated by the International Commission on Non-ionising Radiation Protection (ICNIRP). Various international authorities, including the World Health Organization, the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers and the ICNIRP, have been closely monitoring and reviewing relevant researches conducted by international research and academic institutions. Relevant Government departments will continue to keep in view the findings of researches on the health effects related to electromagnetic field (including radiofrequency radiation), as well as relevant reports published by other authorities, in order to keep abreast of the latest development and conduct assessments of risks to public health.

Name in block letters: ANISSA WONG

Post Title: Permanent Secretary for the  
Environment

Date: 15 April 2013