

For discussion
on 25 February 2013

Legislative Council Panel on Environmental Affairs

Visit to South Korea on Waste Management

Purpose

This paper outlines the Administration's plan to visit South Korea to learn their experience on waste management.

Comprehensive Waste Management Strategy

2. Waste management is high on the agenda of the environment portfolio. As highlighted in this year's Policy Address, our high waste generation rate and the impending exhaustion of landfills call for timely actions. The Government is vigorously pursuing a multi-pronged strategy. We will focus on waste reduction at source, while progressively implementing Producer Responsibility Schemes and the polluter-pays principle so as to boost the recovery and recycling rates of resource materials. On the other hand, we need to develop sustainable end of pipe treatment for waste.

3. We are planning to publish a waste management blueprint around the first quarter of 2013. The blueprint will lay out our comprehensive approach to waste management premised on the "waste hierarchy" widely adopted internationally. It will contain a full range of initiatives on reduction, reuse, recycling, recovery, treatment and landfilling.

Overseas Experience

4. To complement the work plan outlined above, the Administration is planning to visit Seoul, South Korea between 2 and 5 April 2013 to learn more about the city's experience in various aspects of waste management regarding:

- (a) **waste reduction:** policy, measures and implementation;
 - (b) **waste recycling:** how the Government, the community and the private sector work together;
 - (c) **treatment infrastructure:** planning and operation of relevant facilities.
5. An outline programme is at the **Annex** for reference. We seek to accomplish the following goals in the visit:
- (a) Seoul has remarkable achievement in waste reduction in the past 20 years. Its path towards success, in terms of policy, measures, community participation, facility planning etc., are good reference for Hong Kong;
 - (b) Seoul and Hong Kong have many similarities in population density and built environment. Operational experience of policy measures and planning of waste infrastructure would be of great relevance to Hong Kong;
 - (c) we plan to visit community waste facilities and interact with local community. This would give us a better idea on how public respond to and how best to engage them regarding waste policies and facilities.


Advice Sought





6. Members are invited to note the Administration's planned visit and consider whether the Panel is interested in conducting a similar visit.





Environment Bureau
February 2013


Visit to South Korea on Waste Management (2-5 April 2013)

Outline Programme
(tentative subject to adjustment)

Item	Features	Photos
2 April: Hong Kong → Seoul (evening arrival, no visit programme)		
3 April: Reduction and Reuse		
1.	<p>Overall briefing by Ministry of Environment of South Korea</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Introduction of waste management in South Korea ➤ Vision, mission and target of waste management ➤ The path of waste reduction ➤ Challenges on waste reduction 	
2.	<p>Waste Charging System</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Introduction of fee collection and monitoring under the waste charging system ➤ Visit residential buildings on their waste management (including grassroots and middle-class residential buildings) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Garbage bags used by each household model ● Garbage bags used by building management model ➤ Visit commercial buildings on their waste management (including retail and restaurants) 	
3.	<p>Food Reduction Campaign since 2012</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ How the Government encouraged food waste reduction at source by restaurants and the public ➤ Visit restaurants with Kimchi Bar 	

Item	Features	Photos
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 101 food waste reduction tips promoted by the Government 	
4.	<p>Second-hand product store</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Their story of success and interface with waste management policy of South Korea 	
4 April: Recycling		
1.	<p>Food Recycling System</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Introduction of the collection and monitoring system on food waste ➤ Visit food waste collection in residential buildings (including grassroots and middle-class residential buildings) ➤ Visit food waste collection in commercial buildings (including retail and restaurants) 	 
2.	<p>Food Waste Recycling Facility</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ How to liaise with locals and solicit their support? ➤ How to tackle the odour problem? 	
3.	<p>Community Recycling Facilities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Visit recycling bins and litter boxes in Seoul to study their locations and design <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Public area – subway stations, park, street ● Shopping mall / supermarket 	

Item	Features	Photos
		
4.	<p>Waste Separation Treatment Plant</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ to study its operational model and management principles ➤ to study how separation treatment plants create green jobs 	 
5.	<p>Development of Korean recycling industry</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ to study how waste management policy facilitates the development of recycling industry ➤ to study the technology of turning waste plastics of low value into high value-added resources 	

Item	Features	Photos
		
5 April: Treatment Technology		
1.	Incinerator <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Visit the treatment plant and its operation ➤ Sharing with local community groups on community monitoring system 	
2.	Landfill <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Visit the landfill ➤ Briefing by operator on continuous community engagement in planning, commissioning and operation of landfill 	